

Curriculum and Programming Committee Meeting

The Curriculum and Programming Committee met on Monday, October 6th, at 9 a.m. in the Assistant Superintendent's office. Principal, Shanna Crofton and Cindy Cygan, Technology teacher proposed a dual agreement with Southern Maine Community College so that grade 11 and 12 students can receive credits from SMCC for the CAD course taught at the high school. There is no cost to students or the district and students receive college credits. They reviewed the curriculum and requirements. It was agreed that this would be brought to the full board for approval on October 8th, 2014.

Next, Sue Woodhams, Director of Technology, answered many questions about the role of the technology integrators and their relationship within their work with the regular classroom teachers. Sue spoke about the grade level expectations that the integrators working with the classroom teachers need to be aware of as they implement curriculum. She mentioned that she was focusing on teachers identifying their own use of various technologies. She stated that when examining technologies she asks:

1. Is the Technology necessary?
2. Is the Technology beneficial?
3. What impact does it have on student learning?

When pressed by the board members regarding supporting teachers in the classroom adequately in order to utilize the technology to their advantage for the benefit of all students she responded that she was definitely limited by teacher time constraints. She mentioned the need for 1 day of professional development for all teachers each year which the board members agreed should be considered by the school board. The group suggested that there should be a full board workshop—prior to budget season—to talk about the role of technology, and that it would be great to have some illustrative examples of how technology has been used successfully to support student learning at different levels.

John Paige, Curriculum Coordinator, and Cherie White, Administrative Consultant, spoke next with John presenting the 6-8 completed World Languages Curriculum needing to be brought to the full board for approval. He mentioned that grade 6 was an exposure year to French and Spanish. Grades 7 and 8 are years for the students at B.J.H.S. to choose the language of choice. These curricula are congruent with the Maine Learning Results and the State Common Core of Standards.

Cherie White reviewed with the committee the updated Curriculum Review Cycle and said it would be placed on our website soon. She further gave each board member a copy of all of the curriculum pieces that can be found on our school department website.