



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORTS

APRIL 8, 2021

Culture, Climate & Community Relations

Curriculum Committee

The Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee met on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, to review and strengthen Committee goals, and steps taken toward goal completion.

- 1. Positive Messaging:** Schor School began a virtual positive messaging campaign through the guidance department. Social media posts throughout the month included template announcements from the social media art template contest. Black History Month and Women's History Month quotes were shared on all school marquees. The Committee discussed other positive messaging outreach. The Administration will present other PBSIS efforts at the May meeting.
- 2. Community Partnerships:** The Committee reviewed winning photos of the Door Decorating Contest held with Community Education. Discussion took place regarding Rutgers partnerships, including the HBCU College Fair; Rutgers Access Week that included lectures, student workshops, alumni engagement opportunities, and support for first-generation, low-income and other student groups; and plans for an Arbor Day activity for Piscataway students. The Committee requested additional information on grant opportunities through Jersey Cares and Home Depot, and an update on shared services with the Municipal Alliance.
- 3. Wellness and Physical Health:** The Committee reviewed a draft of a new brochure that offers information about mental health and wellness initiatives throughout the District, and a new page on the District website that offers a list of suggested wellness books. The Committee discussed ways to publicize the brochure, including involving the PHS TV Studio.
- 4. New Business:** The Committee discussed outreach for Trans Youth and reviewed a professional opportunity for HiTops Trans Youth Forum. The information was shared with the PHS staff.

The Curriculum Committee met on Monday, April 5 2021 to discuss ways to amplify student voices, ensure a more diverse reading experience, and other topics.

- 1. Black History Month:** The Committee reviewed the BHM Third Grade Pilot Program, including student work. Resources are available for teachers to use throughout the school year.
- 2. K-12 Holocaust/Amistad/LGBTQ Crosswalk:** The Committee reviewed the Crosswalk document that demonstrates Holocaust/Amistad/LGBTQ curriculum across the district.
- 3. Amplifying Student Voice:** PHS invited Diversity.org to meet with students to help foster difficult conversations that lead to positive results. The PHS student group Diversifying Our Narrative met with English Department faculty chairs and coaches to discuss a focus on BIPOC representation and real world topics, and how to bring these topics into the classroom. Recent bulk purchases of Own Voices books, including Neuro Diverse communities, for school and classroom libraries are being used for read-alouds and classroom activities. Curriculum audits will continue to access current needs and possible gaps in social issues.
- 4. PHS ELA Update:** The Rutgers Expository Writing course that offers students both honors credit and college credit will be expanded to allow all PHS students to choose to enroll. Additional PHS teachers will receive training and certification to teach the course from Rutgers University. In addition to expanding our selection of books for independent reading, the Learning Ally digital platform will be expanded to bring this audio platform to all students K-12.
- 5. Remediation Programs:** All K-8 students were screened to determine learning gaps. Dr. Baskerville reviewed building-based remedial programs that will address these gaps.
- 6. Assessments:** The testing window is from May 3 – June 11. The NJSLA may be suspended this school year..
- 7. Freshman Seminar Mentor Course:** This will now be offered for 21st Century Skill Credit.

Policy/Legislative Committee

Fiscal Planning & Operations

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