

Mathematics Community Advisory Committee
May 6, 2008
Reflection and Feedback

Lex Akers

Reflection:

- Reading and reflections well defined between meetings.
- Start next year with good summary of our progress.
- Clear objectives of what we will accomplish at the end of next year.

Tim Bilyeu

Topics for next year:

- More in-depth on the role of the math coaches at the elementary level.
- Discussion of integrated and standard approach to high school math.

Reflection:

- Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this committee. It certainly seems that CPS has a strong interest in student success. After touring pre-calculus and INT-4, both honors, I really believe students need to have both options.

Teresa Barry

Topics:

- People from outside CPS need to see the data about the level of students who enter the different pathways (comparatively) and where they are when they leave each pathway.

Lynn Eaton

Reflection:

- It seems that fractions and algebra and basic standard ways to solve problems need to be taught early and well. More comparison/evaluation/update of Columbia Public Schools curriculum would be nice.

Marla Clowe

Reflection:

- I find the conversations interesting and the viewpoints of other people interesting to hear.

Dan Edidin

Reflection:

- I strongly encourage CPS to engage with research mathematicians (as opposed math education specialists) on curricula issues.

Walter Gassmann

Reflection:

- This has been very educational. I think I have a better understanding of the CPS math curriculum and can address some of the concerns and anxieties of friends and acquaintances.
- I would like to know more about teacher training and instruction. I think how curriculum guidelines are actually put into practice is the key, whether the curriculum is “traditional” or “integrated”. I don’t mean to put all the burden on the teachers, more as a supportive suggestion.

Sharon Jacoby

Topics for next year:

- What would help parents? How should that be done?
- Look at reliable data

Reflection:

- Very interesting!

Susan Keller

Reflection:

- I feel like we had too many papers handed out tonight and not enough time to really study them completely so we could give the best feedback.

Susan Lever

Topics for next year:

- Joint meetings with CPS curriculum committees

Cheryl Lightner

Topic for next year:

- I would like to see how a certain concept is built from elementary through high school. Could look at both pathways.

Catherine Linder

Topic for next year:

- Integrated/traditional math; how to reach out to underachieving math students.

Reflection:

- Thank you for inviting me to participate in these meetings. As the parent of a 6th grader, I am particularly interested in learning/discussing the secondary mathematics curriculum (integrated/traditional).

Ian Mette

Topics for next year:

- Develop a greater understanding of learning theory and how to build a greater learning partnership between schools and the community.

Kim Presko

Topics for next year:

- Look at data of matched pairs about how these students perform.
- What do we know about learning styles and who is appropriate for integrated vs. algebra track?
- How long do students stay in a pathway? Algebra vs. integrated? Or number of years of math?

Michelle Pruitt

Topics for next year:

- Look at textbook content alignment with revised CPS scope and sequence (incorporating suggestions made this evening re: NMP recommendations)
- Look at 8th grade Terra Nova scores for integrated vs. traditional pathway to see if ACT scores reflect initial scores or coursework.
- Write a recommendations document.
- Review math content of textbooks – elementary and middle school

Joe Quetsch

Topics for next year:

- Let's have a rambling discussion to discover and settle on topics.

Reflection:

- Ask specific questions as CPS wants our points regarding
 - e.g. Reasons why parents chose a curriculum
 - e.g. CPS knows math and teaching. What can the math advisory group do to help the math department inform the board, the parents, etc.
- Specific tasks, what you really can use in addition to the lofty vision. The letter after the April meeting, with the minutes was very helpful.

Jen Rachow

Topics for next year:

- Review performance data.
- Have live examples of a lesson (specifically elementary)

Reflection:

- Today's review was too broad – not enough time to do an in-depth evaluation. It was helpful though.

Alice Reese

Topics for next year:

- College admission officer, more info on Algebra vs. integrated strand

Reflection:

- My school visit:
 - Add zero to number line – skip count
 - Think combine/separate adds additional, confusing language
 - Measuring table tops – use appropriate tools – kids needed a meter/yard stick rather than a ruler.
- Information – especially last meeting too much, too confusing that should have been the take home material rather than another academic article.

Jeanne Sebaugh

Topics for next year:

- Somehow we need to set some benchmarks on achievable goals and perhaps have subcommittees. Perhaps we could have an example of how the same topic, like whole numbers or fractions could be taught using different strategies.

Reflection:

- I hope to find time over the summer to review the documents we were given. Or, if there are other activities for the summer months, please let me know.

Teresa VanDover for Larry Jones

Topics for next year:

- Clarity of benchmarks and parent communication.

Theresa Yeager

Topics for next year:

- Continue the process

Reflection:

- Interested in End of Course test results

Gail Underwood

Topics for next year:

- Compare 1970 books to current – traditional

Reflection/Recommendation:

- More time to spend looking at curriculum