

**2011-2012 Opening of School Update**  
**Pupil Services Department: Glenn McGrath**

**Staffing:**

The department hired 20 new certified staff and opened school, Pre-K-12 fully staffed. We also opened with all of our paraprofessional and teaching assistant positions filled.

**Staff/Program Development:**

The department provided a full day of professional development/training for the District's special education and general education para-educators on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This training included the Para Academy at Whiting Lane Elementary. The topics focused on Building a Community of Practice with in-services on SRBI, Autism, Communication and Sign Language.

**Summer Program/Extended School Year Services:**

The district provided an extended school year program for 206 students Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade including students in the WAAVE program. This six week program was very successful and provided students the opportunity to maintain and expand their skills and learning. Many of the classes were co-taught and all students were provided with a variety of exciting inclusionary academic and social opportunities and experiences. The program also provided an outstanding orientation/training for paraprofessionals on Autism provided by the President of the Connecticut Autism Council.

**Priorities and Initiatives:**

The Pupil Services Department's Development and Performance Plan for the 2011-2012 school year will continue its focus and work on the following initiatives.

- The elementary principals' team identified the need to address issues related to our special education and integrated models of special education, to become increasingly more proactive versus reactive to problems and needs. The Educational Planning Committee (EPC), involving both elementary principals and elementary pupil services staff will meet monthly to problem solve and plan. This committee represents a focused effort to reduce the silos between regular education and special education, to strengthen the connection between the Office of Instruction and Curriculum and Pupil Services, and promote working across the schools to meet student needs effectively and efficiently.
- The implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) as an integral part of the district's SRBI Tiered Intervention. The PBIS model will be rolled out at Braeburn, Wolcott and Bristow Middle School.

**Agenda Item:**  
**V.A.1.e.**

- The continued analysis and assessment of student's performance and progress on the state wide assessments, (CMT/CAPT/MAS) to determine appropriate modifications and alignment with the student's IEP.
- To provide professional development to support special and general education teachers, para-educators and parents in our collective work to improve instruction and student learning. Training will focus on co-teaching accommodation/modification of curriculum, Autism and Assistive Technology.
- To conduct a program review of the district's guidance/school counseling program (6-12) which will be presented to the Curriculum Professional Development Council (CPDC).
- To demonstrate compliance with the State Department's requirements and performance targets for the District's Annual Performance Report (APR).
- To promote parent partnerships in collaboration with SEPTA to strengthen and support parent participation, training and communication between home and school through forums, trainings, and surveys.

### **School Counseling Department:**

In alignment with CT Secondary School Reform requiring districts to create and implement a student success plan for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Middle School Counselors will:

- Deliver 4 classroom lessons associated with the grade 6 student success plan (SSP).
- Identify, collect and evaluate data, and student feedback associated with the SSP that will drive future programming
- Expand/develop the 4 lesson plans for grades 7 and 8 associated with SSP
- Development and evaluation of student portfolios

Further develop, implement and evaluate the departmental development plan that is aligned with the district's mission and district/school wide development plan. Counselors will continue to expand their focus on program development grades 6-12 designed to support the college awareness, readiness achievement and success of all students. Special attention will be focused on students from low-income, ELL and first-generation college bound students.

- Following pilot program 2010-11 both high schools will deliver 10 week Junior Planning Series focused on post high school planning
- Continue to expand the department's utilization of technology in the processing and tracking of college applications utilizing the department's Naviance program
- Continue to administer, evaluate and share results of the senior exit survey
- Continue to implement, evaluate, and revise curriculum
- Evaluate and adjust programs focused on increasing parental involvement/participation in educational process and outreach in grades 6-12

- Increase each student's knowledge of career options.
- Increase the number of students who go on to higher education after high school.
- Increase all stakeholders' involvement with students' career and life planning.
- Arrange for visits for identified students 6-12 to a variety of post high school programs to include 2 and 4 year colleges, and technical schools.

As part of the district's curriculum review process the school counseling department will complete the self-study process as well as prepare and present findings to the Curriculum Professional Development Council (CPDC).

### **State Department Updates:**

The district submitted several data reports to the State Department and the Office of Civil Rights during the summer term in compliance with federal and State requirements. The State is in the process of revising our state statutes to ensure they are aligned and consistent with the federal law (IDEA, ADA). The district received the highest determination level of "Meets Requirements" on the district's Annual Performance Report (APR) for the 2009-2010 school year.