



The Marple Newtown School District requires 3 years of science to graduate. Many students take science in 9, 10, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Many students never take the Physics program, which is largely for grade 12 students. Dr. Horowitz spoke with Suzanne Mecouch about working with teachers to insure consistency in lab experiences for courses that offer 1.25 credits. Dr. Horowitz saw the draft curriculum that is now realigned with the Pennsylvania State Academic Standards. There are assessment anchors, and then under the assessment anchors are eligible content. The eligible content is what is tested on the PSSA. When concepts are taught to students at any level the eligible content is taught to every student that has any science course. Suzanne Mecouch has worked with the teachers of college prep and concepts courses to insure consistency of all of the students at the particular level. The National Science Teachers Association now calls a lab an investigation (wet lab - using chemicals or a dry lab – problem solving investigation). Dr. Horowitz has examined the number of labs that are now proposed for college prep (33 labs) and concepts level students (24 labs). The revised curriculum is based on the eligible content.

Dr. Shapiro asked when the new curriculum would go into effect? Dr. Horowitz responded by saying that the Chemistry curriculum was the one that was worked on and that it would be going into effect in September, 2009.

Dr. Shapiro asked about Earth Science, Biology and Physics. Dr. Horowitz said the Mrs. Mecouch was working with Biology teachers. It takes a great deal of time to work on each subject. Dr. Horowitz will talk with Mrs. Mecouch about when each subject will be aligned with the standards.

Dr. Shapiro asked if Mrs. Mecouch could prepare a matrix as to when each of the science courses at each of the levels will have new curriculum as regards to labs for the next month's meeting. Dr. Shapiro said that he had gotten feedback from parents, as well as students, as to lack of consistency among teachers and too few labs. With the new renovations, he would like to see the labs used.

Mrs. Kauffman said that it would be the supervisor's job and that it would be a challenge to make sure that there is consistency across the board for all disciplines.

Mr. Sokorai said that teachers are professionals and should not have every aspect of their classroom dictated to them. The vast majority of teachers take their job very seriously.

Mrs. Galbraith stated the Curriculum Committee should stay on top of curriculum development and that she would like to hear from each supervisor what they are doing.

Dr. Shapiro commented that possibly graduation standards should be evaluated.

## **5. Comments**

Teresa Appleby thanked the committee for creating supervisory positions.

**6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Paine