

Executive Summary: **Physical Education Curriculum**

Situation to Date:

It has been brought to our attention several times that allowing the PE opt out for students is opposed to the intention of the Health and Physical Education Standards. We are in receipt of opinions from the Pennsylvania Department of Education that state that WCSD needs to remedy the situation that we have currently. Last year, we had discussion about modifying what we do, but the Board indicated that we needed to modify the curriculum to incorporate more lifetime fitness activities and an increased awareness of personal health topics throughout the physical education curriculum to add value for our students. The PE curriculum is due to be re-written this school year (2009-2010) with textbook selection next school year (2010-2011) and implementation in the following year (2011-2012).

Actions to Date:

The PE department began meeting in the fall of 2009 to begin the process of redeveloping their curriculum. Because of the situation with the PE opt out, they decided to focus their early efforts on grades 9-12 so that they would have something in place that could be implemented next school year. The curriculum presented to you represents the distillation of a great deal of discussion and study of other curricula from other schools that are leaders in Physical Education and the guidelines from the American Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The curriculum has been written in two-year cycles which allows for grades 9-10 to be taught together and grades 11-12 to be together. This will ease the scheduling process for students and principals. Students would not repeat curriculum from year to year, but simply move through the material in the two year cycle.

Health topics have been included in each year of study so that we will be meeting the state requirements for AIDS education, drug and alcohol education and any other health topics that are required on an annual basis. Students will spend some days of their PE period in the health classroom each year.

The assessment process for Physical Education will also change. Emphasis will be placed on individual improvement rather than reaching specific levels of skill. This assessment can be implemented using heart-rate monitors, personal achievement goals, fitness journals and through computer software such as Fitness-gram and/or the Tri-Fit system. In addition, there will be tests, quizzes and other written assignments to assess the components of the embedded health curriculum.

The PE department is not requesting the purchase of any additional materials at this time, but will instead wait until the 2010-2011 school year when their materials would be included in the regular budget process. The PE Department is continuing to look for grant opportunities that will allow purchase of additional assessment tools prior to that time.

Policy Implications:

The Physical Education Department is respectfully requesting that the Board consider eliminating Policy 9535 Physical Education Substitution. In addition, The Physical Education Department is suggesting that because of the increased academic nature of the coursework they will be providing to students that each semester be awarded .5 credit which would be counted in GPA. This would require reconsideration of Policy 9732 Graduation Requirements for 2011 and Beyond.

Timeline:

The scheduling booklet for the 2010-2011 school year must be completed for distribution to the students near the end of January. If the Board would like to move forward with this plan, then we will need to approve the curriculum to be taught. The administration would instruct the principals to proceed with scheduling all students for Physical Education.

Financial Implications:

If every student in grades 9-12 were to enroll in Physical Education at their respective high school, then we would need to add three physical education teachers to meet the needs of the additional students at the four high schools. This would require a budget commitment of approximately \$180,000. There are several factors that could reduce this need. Some students may choose to home school for PE, thereby reducing the number of students that would need to be accommodated. In addition, the PE department has suggested that they would be willing to forgo teaching all elective courses for the 2010-2001 school year so that perhaps the additional teaching needs could be absorbed more gradually into the budget and the K-8 curriculum could be completed and then we could examine the needs of the department as a whole.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of School Directors adopts the planned instructions for grades 9-12 as presented and forward Policies 9535 and 9742 to the next policy committee meeting.