This meeting was devoted to discussing Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as they are currently being applied to Middletown Public Schools’ (MPS) curriculum and the work being done to continue embedding the CCSS.

Enza gave an overview of what has been happening so far. The goal is to have all disciplines using CCSS by the 2013-2014 school year, with the understanding that changes/improvements will need to be made. She explained that the district will have a Share Drive where everything will be stored electronically and all teachers will have access to materials. Challenges include finding common time for all to work together to design curriculum based on the CCSS.

Kristen Bradley gave an overview of K-5 Language Arts with examples from Grade 4 unit: Using informational Text to Explain and Support Ideas: Regions and States

Christopher Darby gave an overview of 6-12 Language Arts using examples from a Grade 9 unit: Building Textual Connections: The Individual and Society. Grades 6-10 currently have one completed unit with all others being completed by the end of next year.

Hank Stockmal gave an overview of K-5 Math with examples from Grade 2 unit. Our district fully implemented CCSS Math K-1 during the 2011-2012 school year, K-2 during the 2012-2013 school year, and K-5 being fully implemented during the 2013-2014 school year.

Bryan Hand gave an overview of 6-12 Math with examples from Algebra 2: Functions and Inverse Functions. Grade 7 has fully implemented CCSS. Grade 6 partially, Grade 8 has 3 CCSS
units while continuing to prepare for CMTs. Algebra 1,2 and Geometry have fully implemented CCSS this year.

Other important points made during this meeting include the following:

- CCSS are the same for all levels K-12 but the work changes for each grade level. Rigor is a focus.
- Interdisciplinary units are encouraged.
- CCSS does not dictate content. Standards are what are common.
- The workforce has let schools know that students do not possess critical thinking skills and cannot problem solve.
- K-12 communication is vital.
- CCSS provide for differentiated instruction.
- Purpose of CCSS is to enhance student knowledge.
- Smarter Balance Assessment will be coming in 2015.

For more information on CCSS, please visit the MPS website.
http://www.middletownschools.org/page.cfm?p=9352

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.
The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2013 at 9:15 AM at Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

Franca Biales
Curriculum Committee Chair