

## Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 6, 2019

4:00 p.m.

District Offices, Board Room

**Attendees:** Dr. Michelle Cardwell, John Lumia, Peggy Kelland, Jessica Turner, Helen Soyka, Flip Gertler, Dave Seipp, Nancy Longenberger, Kerri Bohringer, Robert Schukal, Kristen Marino, Katie Oliver, Timothy Rifenburg, Christine Zandstra, Donna Kart, Christine Furnia, Lauren Hernandez, Victoria Carroll, Elizabeth Zingaro, Gregory Heinke, Christine Blake, Robert Briskey, Adam Panzer, James Casey

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Dr. Michelle Cardwell.

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- Dr. Cardwell encouraged the attendees to share their honest opinions and asked, "How can we support K-12 ELA?"
- Positive feedback was given for the K-6 curriculum and resources:
  - ✓ Workshop model
  - ✓ Professional development
  - ✓ Teacher's College – powerful, applicable
  - ✓ Supplies and resources get an A+
  - ✓ There is vertical alignment, very focused
  - ✓ ELA residency is very powerful and intense. Mike Clarke examines the curriculum and it's tailored to the teacher. He encourages teachers on how to do small groups, conference, and to choose books. Students show enthusiasm.
  - ✓ Evans was praised for Teachers College coaches coming to classrooms.
  - ✓ Sheafe Road pilot - Teachers College in phonics fits with other units of study -- strong application.
- Areas of Improvement:
  - ✓ Social Studies – some resources are difficult to find, a variety is needed. Maps – geographical reasoning, make sure they're accurate
  - ✓ Suggestion was made to purchase at PNWB
  - ✓ Discovery Education – videos? Cost approximately \$10,000/building

- ✓ One development specialist is needed per school. John Sammon is overscheduled.
  - ✓ Teachers College is offered in two of the schools. Funds are available but it depends on how many TC specialists are available.
  - ✓ Mike Clarke is retiring. Both external and internal applicants can apply.
  - ✓ Mentors are important, video classrooms, share with colleagues.
  - ✓ Relationship building among teachers is very important.
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- Grades 7-12
  - Positive feedback was given for ELA and literacy standards across the content areas.
  - Math/science – literacy is important in these content areas. Teachers aren't trained to teach literacy in grade 7-12.
  - One professional development specialist is needed in all 7-12 content areas.
  - There is disconnect with reading, decoding and processing test questions.
  - Students who read on their own for at least 10 minutes a day have an increased vocabulary and are better learners.
  - Daily reading time allotted in school (10-15 minutes) is not enough.
  - Peggy Kelland commented that she does not see a variety of books in the school libraries. Could books be donated?
  - Read-alouds introduce students to wider range, higher level, and different genres of books.
  - Empower parents to discuss what they are reading to their children. Encourage their children to read more.
  - There is a decrease in the amount of time high school students independently read.

- Teachers have a responsibility to encourage their students to read. Content doesn't have to just be textbooks and school related.
- Workshop model needed at high school level.
- There is a decline in reading after 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Use of electronics is the culprit.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students spend 1 hour reading and writing. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade it drops to 40 minutes.

#### Questions and Answers:

##### 1) Are state standards age-appropriate for special education students?

- Class sizes need to be reduced, workshop model needed, independent work is required.
- Special education students are missing out on learning time if they cannot sit still.
- Some students are not placed in the correct program. Programs need to be evaluated to meet the needs of all special education students.
- The programs, i.e. self-contained, inclusion, look different in each building from year to year.
- Excel program was successful
- TC 's need to analyze the text passages. The longer the passage, the lower the score.

##### 2) Is the curriculum and resources appropriate?

- Provide review books for students. Less expensive than textbooks

##### 3) Is the BOE resolution on homework a good or bad policy?

- Read what's essential. "Read what you need."

- Research on homework shows it does not yield the results.
- Give meaningful homework assignments
- Math teachers give homework for practice
- Does reduction of homework have negative impacts?
- Secondary level can give lunch detention if homework is not completed. Cannot do that at the elementary level.
- Parent member stated that homework is beneficial to teach time management.
- Should an elementary student be held accountable?
- Students are individuals and should not be penalized. Some go to jobs right after school.

4) Do teachers have enough time to cover standards? The consensus was no.

- What do we do about it as a district?
  - The amount of planning to meet each students needs would be astronomical.
  - Lesson prep time has increased. There is not enough time in the day.
  - Integrated co teachers should get to choose who they teach with.
  - Be more consistent each year. Teachers who build a co-teaching relationship that works need to stay together.
  - Co-teaching model needs to be improved
  - Secondary co-teachers need training
  - Teaching team challenges: personalities don't always mesh
- Dr. Cardwell adjourned the Curriculum Committee meeting at 5:20 p.m.