

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Michelle Cardwell, John Lumia, Peggy Kelland, Linda Rappaport, Jessica Turner, Dave Seipp, Flip Gertler,

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Dr. Michelle Cardwell.

Topics of discussion: K-6 revisions of the Scope and Sequence for the 2020-21 school year. Jessica Tuner will review the K-6 curriculum modifications and will present an overview of grades 7-12. She is new to those grade levels and the work is ongoing.

The next curriculum meeting will be on January 20th at 3 p.m. The professional development specialists will present K-12 ongoing work with hybrid and remote learning.

- Jessica Turner presented the curriculum website - Triage teaching K-6 curriculum wall updated since last spring.
- Enhanced literacy instruction, enhanced reading and writing; streamlined and removed 2 units per grade. The reduction relieves the pressure on teachers and can be added back in the future. Purchased virtual units of study.
- New York State testing - waiting on a decision from the state.
- Social Studies - Took out non-essential units.
- Math - Essential teaching must happen. Units have not been modified because it's sequential teaching.
- Students are participating in the workshop model in math in most elementary schools. Students are expected to work independently on math problems.
- Next Generation, Singapore Math and Greg Tang - Teachers are doing great. Math scores are up in most of the schools.

- Focus on math journaling - Getting students to engage in mathematical discourse.
- Virtual math choice boards and ELA choice boards are all-encompassing.
- Easy access digital libraries are sent out to students via Google classroom.
- Lift Off to Literacy K-2 - Teachers are ecstatic about this for their primary readers.
- Vocabulary instruction is ongoing. Purposeful Play - tweet information out to teachers. Far more advanced than neighboring districts.
- Dr. Cardwell expressed her excitement for the district's K-12 alignment of continuity for elementary to secondary.
- Secondary level - Grades 7-8 meeting with TCs once/week to discuss triage teaching/pandemic teaching; critical and evaluative thinking.
- PD videos available for all teachers on how to make choice boards.
- Diversity books for classrooms - Needed especially for grades 7-8, such as: book club, lifelong reading, building stamina.
- Social Studies and ELA - Idea of literature and SS helps to understand different cultures.
- Grade 7-12 focus on humanities-based programs. Teachers have access on the professional development websites. Revamping - Too cumbersome according to teachers. Due to launch in March - change the way it looks.
- PNWBOCES has updated the Science 21 Resources and the Social Studies materials.
- K-6 math resources include Math in Focus and EngageNY Modules. Both of these resources are linked to the scope and sequence. Adam Panzer is working in finding a resource to bring to a committee to see if we can streamline the math resources.
- Jessica gave examples of Okapi reading materials.
- Jessica explained that the District has access to myon data that indicates the number of books and reading levels that the students are reading.
- It was shared that students have opportunities to interact and engage with each other in-person and virtually throughout lessons. The District will continue to develop and share opportunities that can increase student engagement and opportunities for student discussion during class.

- Big Read author visits. Professors will be asked to present and engage in our high school classes.
- Parent University sessions will be offered in the spring on topics related to literacy. Both AM and PM sessions will be offered virtually to try to increase participation.
- Culturally responsive curriculum in ELA and SS is continuing in the District. Appropriate books have been added to libraries K-6 and PD has been provided to teachers K-6. Social issues and social justice units have been added to the curriculum. Civic engagement opportunities provide students with voice and choice.
- Secondary level: Books have been added to provide students with access through the Big Read and other teacher selected topics from diverse authors. However, this work is just beginning at the secondary level.
- Multi-year plans for Culturally Responsive Curriculum/Resources/Professional Development will be provided at the March meeting.

The meeting ended at 4 p.m.