

**Manitowoc Public School District**  
**Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting**

October 15, 2020

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Curriculum Committee Member Elizabeth Williams was present along with Board of Education member Lisa Johnston and Superintendent Mark Holzman. In addition, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Lori Williams, MPSD Math Specialist were also present. Emery Petchaur and Liz Drame from Derute Consulting Cooperative were present for a portion of the meeting, as well.

**Derute Consulting Cooperative Update**

Pamela Lensmire explained that the Student Learning Office team connected with Derute Consulting Cooperative to explore how their team could support efforts to build the capacity of the district for racial equity and change. She introduced Emery Petchaur and Liz Drame from Derute Consulting Cooperative who provided some background on their organization and shared an overview of the work their team has been engaged in with a group of 30 district leaders in the first year of a 3-year partnership. Emery, Liz, and the rest of the Derute Consulting Cooperative team worked with the leadership team in August to review data and discuss root causes of racial inequities within the MPSD. This led to the identification of exploration of race and racism in our schools and inequitable policies and practices as a focus for the team's work throughout the year. The Derute Consulting Cooperative team will continue work related to this focus with the leadership team on 3 additional staff development days during the year. The Derute team has also facilitated the implementation of a racial equity championing process designed to support every individual within the leadership group in achieving his/her personal racial equity goals. The plan for subsequent years will be determined by the outcomes achieved this year, but the ultimate goal is to build the capacity of all staff to positively affect racial equity and change across the district and prompt community action towards racial equity and change, as well.

**K-12 Math Update**

Lori Williams, MPSD Math Specialist, provided an update on the things occurring within the district to increase students' mathematical skill development and strengthen teachers' mathematical instructional practices. The 4K staff has received 2 years of professional development on the implementation of Counting Collections, a best practice to develop students' understanding of counting, a key foundational skill. Kindergarten through Grade 5 teachers are implementing Bridges, a core math curriculum, and Number Corner, a skill-building program providing daily practice and regular opportunities to reinforce broader mathematical concepts. The Bridges curriculum also includes games and work spaces for families to use at home with children for additional math practice. Special education teachers have been provided with Bridges aligned intervention materials for use in their targeted work with students. Additionally, both special education and English Learner teachers have been included in Bridges trainings and join collaborative team meetings to engage in planning and data analysis with their

classroom teacher colleagues. The math coaches are providing support to individual teachers, and grade level building and districtwide teams in implementing the Bridges curriculum. They model lessons, observe classes and engage in coaching conversations with teachers, and engage with every grade level team on Fridays to plan upcoming lessons and review student progress data.

Middle school teachers implement College Preparatory Math. Many virtual resources have been made available to teachers to support distance learning. New teachers have been provided with initial CPM training and will receive follow-up coaching support from John Hayes to help them achieve their individual goals for growing their mathematical instructional practices. High schools teachers also implement College Preparatory Math Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2. In addition, there are IB and AP math offerings for students. In addition to working with middle school teachers to focus instruction and assessment on priority standards, Tracy Frank, from Innovative Solutions, is providing coaching to middle and high school teachers in Complex Instruction, an instructional strategy designed to increase equity within math classrooms through building students' positive mathematical identity and agency.

Lisa Johnston asked if similar supports are being put in place to assist teachers in developing students' reading skills. Pamela Lensmire indicated that they are and Jason Bull shared that a K-12 ELA update will be provided at the November Curriculum Committee meeting.

Elizabeth Williams made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Meredith Sauer seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.