

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 18, 2022

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Kathy Willis, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members Tony Vlastelica and Matthew Phipps were present. Also present were James Feil, Interim Superintendent, Stacey Soeldner, School Board President, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. In addition, Katie Eichmann, Director of Pupil Services, Lee Thennes, Lincoln High School Principal and Jen Schultz, K-12 Literacy Specialist were in attendance.

ELA Resource Review/Adoption Update

Pam Lensmire and Jen Schultz presented an update on the ELA resource review/adoption process. Below you will find a summary of the update:

1. A survey was conducted in late fall 2021 asking classroom teachers, special education teachers, reading teachers, English Learner teachers, and administrators to identify how important certain elements are to an effective literacy resource and how well our current resource, the Units of Study, align to each element. The results of the survey indicated a need to look for a new resource.
2. A team of representatives from across different grade bands, schools, and roles was assembled to serve as the resource review/adoption committee.
3. The committee met in April to review the scope of and timeline for their work.
4. A Science of Reading rubric from expert Wiley Blevins was utilized as a starting point for the creation of the evaluation checklists that would be used by the team in their review of identified resource options. The committee provided several rounds of feedback on the additional elements to be incorporated into the evaluation checklists.
5. K-2 and 3-5 representatives from the resource review/adoption committee met in summer to review and finalize the ELA power standards.
6. The resource options the committee is reviewing are Wonders and Study Sync by McGraw Hill and Into Reading and Into Literature by Houghton Mifflin. EdReports has rated both resources highly in each of its three pillars.
7. Vendors have been providing individual grade band presentations and team members have been digging into sample resource materials to make their evaluations.
8. A survey has been sent to the committee members to get their feedback on which resource, if any, best aligns with each element on the evaluation checklist. Additionally, each team member is asked to identify which resource they would recommend to move forward for adoption.
9. The resource review/adoption committee will come together on November 7, 2022 to review the results of the survey and discuss whether or not they are in a position to propose one of the resources for adoption and seek the approval of the Curriculum Committee to make the preferred resource available for public review.

Committee member Tony Vlastelica asked that evidence around the effectiveness of the preferred resource be brought forward with the proposal.

LHS Standards Based Learning Update

Principal Lee Thennes and a team of teacher leaders shared the why and what of the LHS Standards Based Learning model. Below you will find a summary of the update:

Why:

1. Gives clear skills requirements and instruction
2. Promotes growth mindset by communicating high quality feedback

3. Fosters self-reflection and a person ownership of learning
4. Functions as a “competency-based” system
5. Applies to real-world experiences
6. Aligns with current best practices in education

What

1. Identified priority standards
2. Clear “gotta knows” communicated in “student-friendly language”
3. Data-driven instruction, intervention, and enrichment
4. Feedback using cross-curricular 4 point scale:
 - a. 4 - Advanced (Exceeding Expectations)
 - b. 3 - Proficient (Meeting Expectations)
 - c. 2 - Developing (Approaching Expectations)
 - d. 1 - Beginning (Starting to gather information and skills to approach expectations)

Resource- Adoption

Pam Lensmire presented a proposal for a Middle School Science resource adoption. The determination to explore OpenSciEd was made by the middle school science team, led by the Middle School Science Student Learning Liaison, Kevin Kiel. The resource has been in the making the last couple years, but was not completed until 2022. Last year, a couple of 7th and 8th grade teachers sampled a unit and shared favorable experiences to the middle school team that met at the end of last school year. When the team met in the summer, they explored OpenSciEd a bit more as a group with representatives from each grade level. In their start of the year staff development meeting this school year, the group determined that they would like to explore the resource even more fully with each grade level piloting one unit (two at 7th grade) this school year in place of a similar unit they already teach in IQWST. They would collect data to measure the success of the pilot in order to reevaluate at the end of this school year whether or not to recommend proceeding with full implementation of OpenSciEd. Building principals have been informed of and support the team's desire to sample units this school year. The details integral to this work include:

1. The team followed an Implementation Checklist.
2. Teachers reviewed and developed a deeper understanding of science standards.
3. Teachers identified the power and supporting standards for the course.
4. The team identified the criteria to be used in reviewing resource options.
5. The team identified OpenSciEd as the preferred resource.
6. The preferred resource teacher's manual was made available for public review at the District Office and a link was added to the MPSD website to the resource.

Committee member Tony Vlastelica indicated that, with finite resources available, all time and energy should be focused on ELA. Additionally, he expressed concern about the OpenSciEd resource containing a Health Science Equity unit that references COVID 19, which he said is a divisive topic. Finally, Tony Vlastelica mentioned a desire to review other resources the team considered. A motion was sought to approve this resource pilot. No motion was made. The pilot will not move forward.

Code of Conduct

Jason Bull shared an update around the Code of Conduct. Below you will find a summary of the update:

1. Student Learning Office representatives continue to collaborate with Lynette Simonar around supporting K-12 Character Education.
2. The next Behavior Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022. One of the agenda items for the meeting is the move towards the development of the 5500 Club. In addition, feedback will be sought around the measures of success that will be used moving forward.
3. Building leaders were provided additional resources to support the understanding and use of Infinite

Campus to chronicle behavior referrals.

4. The members of the Student Learning Office continue to receive positive feedback around the start of the year and the Code of Conduct.

Disproportionality

Katie Eichmann shared updates to the Disproportionality work. Below you will find a summary of these updates:

1. The Manitowoc Public School District's required plan of action was submitted to DPI and approved.
2. Elementary teachers have requested the Zones of Regulation Emotional Management resource and Jackson Elementary school teachers will participate in a virtual Zones of Regulation training.
3. Elementary teachers have requested to purchase regulation tools such as noise canceling headphones and flexible seating options in order to support students and their ability to find greater success in the classroom setting.
4. The General Education Behavior Specialists (GEBS) will utilize reserve teachers in order to observe in their colleagues' classrooms. This will allow for the GEBS to assist their colleagues in the implementation of strategies to support students with challenging behaviors in their classrooms.

Learning Walks

Jason Bull shared the model for Learning Walks that the Student Learning Office facilitated pre-pandemic. The Learning Walk model afforded members of the Curriculum Committee to join classrooms and share observations. There was interest from the members of the Curriculum Committee to schedule a Learning Walk during Quarter Two of the 2022/23 school year. Members of the Student Learning Office will coordinate a Learning Walk.

Washington DC Trip

Jason Bull shared the history of middle level trips to Washington, D.C. In addition, Mr. Bull informed the members of the Curriculum Committee that there is currently no trip scheduled, that Angela Erdmann and James Feil have committed to financially supporting a trip, and that he is scheduled to connect with middle school leaders to further discuss and potentially plan for a Washington, D.C. trip. All plans for an out-of-state trip will be brought to the Curriculum Committee for consideration.

Matthew Phipps made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Tony Vlastelica seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 8:13p.m.