

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 21, 2021

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Kathy Willis and Stacey Soeldner were present along with Board of Education members Lisa Johnston and Collin Braunel. In addition, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Lee Thennes, Lincoln High School Principal, and Derek Nelson, Math Coach, were also present.

Lincoln High School Community, Career and College Readiness

Principal Thennes provided the committee an update around the efforts of Lincoln High School staff, parents and students to engage in opportunities that support community, career and college readiness. Mr. Thennes shared longitudinal and current enrollment in programs such as Youth Apprenticeship, School to Work, Rising Phoenix, College Here & Now, and International Baccalaureate (IB). With the exception of IB, many of these programs are seeing increases in enrollment and Mr. Thennes expects these trends to continue. Given the relatively low student enrollments in IB programs coupled with ongoing program and staffing costs, Mr. Thennes is recommending IB programming end at the completion of the 2022/23 school year when the two current juniors enrolled in the full IB Diploma program will graduate. Committee member Stacey Soeldner expressed her support for phasing out the program, yet requested the members of the Curriculum Committee vote on this recommendation. The members of the Curriculum Committee will reconvene November 4, 2021 to further discuss this recommendation and hold a vote for approval.

Comprehensive Textbook List

Jason Bull presented the requested comprehensive textbook list to the members of the Curriculum Committee. A recommendation was made for the comprehensive textbook list to be added to the MPSD website. Jason Bull will be working to add this list to the website.

Learning Walks

Jason Bull shared ongoing conversations with Directors around best serving and supporting building leaders and teachers through a challenging year. One of the ideas shared involved foregoing the two remaining Board of Education Learning Walks to save teacher and principal planning time. Jason reminded the members of the Curriculum Committee that building tours could still be coordinated upon request. A discussion ensued centered on the appreciation for the Learning Walks. A compromise was made that Pam Lensmire and Jason Bull will seek volunteers to host a Learning Walk later in the school year. Jason will bring information to the committee members when known.

The members of the Curriculum Committee scheduled a meeting on November 4, 2021 with a start time of 5:00pm. In addition, all previously scheduled Curriculum Committee meetings will begin at 5:00pm.

Stacey Soeldner made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Kathy Willis seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.