

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 6, 2021

The Curriculum Committee Learning Walk began at 9:00am at Madison Elementary School. Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, and Curriculum Committee Member, Kathy Willis was present along with Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Stacie Opahle, Principal of Madison Elementary School.

Stacie Opahle provided an overview of their school goals for 2021-22. She indicated that their student achievement goal is focused around math, with each grade level picking a key math domain to monitor. The goal was chosen following a review of data and a close look at the math standards supported by the math coach.

The school's instructional practice goal is focused around teacher and student clarity. Mrs. Opahle explained that teacher clarity involves teachers understanding the standards and the depth of knowledge within them. Student clarity involves students understanding the learning target for each lesson. Mrs. Opahle mentioned that her teachers have been purposeful about putting learning targets into student-friendly language and have begun to build visual learning ladders to help students see the progression of skills they will be working to master towards the standard.

Mrs. Opahle also mentioned that Madison Elementary is a Kids at Hope school, with staff living out the belief that "all students can succeed, no exceptions", and working to ensure that all students have at least one caring adult they can go to in the school for support.

Meredith Sauer and Pam Lensmire visited a 3rd grade classroom where students were working on revising their personal narrative pieces. Kathy Willis and Jason Bull visited a kindergarten classroom where students were using a 10 frame to subitize, or instantly recognize the number of objects without actually counting them. The classroom visits were approximately 25 minutes in length followed by a collaborative sharing of observations.

Mrs. Opahle mentioned that her staff utilized the weekly collaborative time last school year to strengthen their Professional Learning Communities processes of collecting and analyzing data, identifying students who struggled and how to respond, sharing effective instructional strategies, planning learning targets, and collaborating with specialists to support the needs of special education and English Learner students, as well as those students identified as needing more support for reading or math. She indicated that it has been a challenge for her staff this year to engage in the same level of collaborative work due to the reduced amount of time available within the traditional schedule model.

The Curriculum Committee Learning Walk meeting adjourned at 10:07am.