

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

November 19, 2020

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members Elizabeth Williams and Kathy Willies were 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 Lee Thennes, Lincoln High School Principal were also present.

Lincoln High School Course Proposals

Lee Thennes presented three course proposals with the members of the Curriculum Committee.

- Baking and Pastry Arts - Baking and Pastry Arts is a course that will allow students to continue to explore the chemistry of foods through baking. Students will have the opportunity to make a variety of baked goods and pastry while being exposed to the chemistry of food and being prepared for learning and career options beyond high school. The Lincoln team will also explore options to develop a relationship with LTC for this course to provide dual credit options for learners. Kathy Willis made a motion to move the proposal to the full Board of Education for consideration. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. All members of the Curriculum Committee supported the motion.
- Competitive Team Sports - Competitive Team Sports will provide students with an opportunity to compete with other like minded students to demonstrate their continued appreciation of physical activity in a team sports setting. Competitive Team Sports will also improve student mastery in advanced skillwork, advanced strategy, and affective domain within the Physical Education standards. This class will provide students with a way to demonstrate their pursuit of lifelong physically enhancing activities within a competitive team sports framework. Elizabeth Williams made a motion to move the proposal to the full Board of Education for consideration. Kathy Willis seconded the motion. All members of the Curriculum Committee supported the motion.
- Exploring Art 2 - Exploring Art 2 will provide students the chance to learn more advanced techniques pertaining to both 2D and 3D materials and feel more confident signing up for future art courses that specialize in 2D or 3D. Some Juniors and Seniors may not have the flexibility to take both a 2D and 3D course in their busy schedules. By offering Exploring Art 2, students will have the opportunity to experience many different medias by taking this one art course rather than worrying about whether they will be able to fit both classes in their schedules. In Exploring Art 2, students will still be assigned more specific guidelines for their projects as they are learning more advanced techniques in this course (scaffolding from Exploring Art where they learn more basic techniques). Kathy Willis made a motion to move the proposal to the full Board of Education for consideration. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. All members of the Curriculum Committee supported the motion.

K-12 Literacy Update

Pam Lensmire reviewed with the team a K-12 literacy update document prepared by Jennifer Schultz, the MPSD K-12 Literacy Specialist. K-2 teachers continue to move forward with

implementation of the Units of Study Phonics curriculum that provides a bridge between reading and writing at the emergent literacy level. The teachers are using the assessments within the curriculum to evaluate students foundational skills and identify areas where additional support is needed to fill gaps.

The K-5 Reading and Writing Units of Study scope and sequence has been revised this year to align to a different schedule at the elementary level. It has been crafted to ensure all chosen power standards are still being addressed but at a pace that is reasonable and provides additional time for teachers to fill gaps for struggling students. Teachers are utilizing formative assessments, pre-and post-assessments, and the learning progressions as tools to monitor student progress towards achievement of the grade level power standards.

MPSD continues to partner with Beth VandeHey from CESA 7 to provide individual and whole group coaching opportunities for elementary and secondary reading teachers. Each reading teacher has chosen a goal related to raising the level of universal literacy instruction within their learning community as a focus for the coaching. In addition to providing intervention to students with the highest level of need, reading teachers at all levels are pushing into classrooms to support both teachers and students and have had the opportunity to join PLC meetings to discuss student needs and assist teachers in developing plans to address those needs.

The middle school ELA teachers are in the second year of implementation of the Reading and Writing Units of Study curriculum. They have chosen to use their staff development time to focus on exploring best practices in conferring about reading and writing with their students, an area they identified for growth based upon their first year of implementation last year. The middle school team continues to receive coaching support by Anne Pagel from the CESA 6 Literacy Center. The middle school ELA teachers have identified their power standards and utilize common formative assessments to monitor student progress toward achievement of the standards.

The high school ELA teachers are continuing to learn more about the workshop model of instruction with the support of Heather Anderson from the CESA 6 Literacy Center. Their main focus is effective mini lessons aligned to learning targets, with some time also being spent on strategies for engaging students in independent and small group practice and individual conferring around targeted literacy skills. Heather has been providing the team with professional development on staff development days and is engaging in coaching with teachers to support their individual goals. The high school ELA teachers have identified their power standards and utilize common formative assessments to monitor student progress toward achievement of the standards.

A question was raised regarding how students get materials to support literacy learning. The schools have coordinated pick-up and drop-off of materials that teachers put together for students. Students and their families are able to request books from their school libraries through the Destiny system. Some students and families elect to use digital versions of texts. Our Manitowoc Public Library partners are aware of the different topics being covered within the Units of Study at the different grade levels and make teacher collections and book bags

available to staff to check out for utilization with students. Jennifer Schultz is working with MSC staff to create book bags of materials aligned to the Units of Study that teachers will be able to check out through Destiny and send home to students.

Parent & Student Engagement Survey

Jason Bull presented an update related to the Parent & Student Engagement Surveys. Traditionally our district has provided the parent and student engagement surveys in the late Fall. With our move to full distance learning in the late Fall the decision was made to move these surveys to later in the year. Pam Lensmire and Jason Bull will continue to work with School Perceptions partners to develop surveys that gather feedback from parents and students around engagement, our learning models and equity. Pam and Jason will keep the members of the Curriculum Committee informed as the process continues.

Winter Assessment Calendar

Jason Bull explained that the assessment calendar for the 2020-21 school year had to be revised due to the circumstances presented by current health and safety parameters and our distance learning schedule models. A calendar was shared out for the fall and the plan is to share out a winter assessment calendar in the near future. Since our typical standardized assessments are not able to be implemented reliably and equitably within a full distance model and we are making efforts to limit disruptions to learning, teachers are utilizing formative in-class assessments and benchmark and summative assessments that are part of the curriculum to monitor student progress. Additional discretionary virtual running records assessments have been added for K-5 classroom teachers or K-12 reading or EL teachers to complete if further information, beyond what is already available, regarding students' strengths and areas to grow is needed. At this time, DPI is indicating that statewide assessments are still in place for the spring and will be required to be administered in a face-to-face format following appropriate health and safety parameters. The draft winter assessment calendar was shared with building leader representatives from each grade band and with teacher leaders for feedback. Revisions will be made based upon the feedback and a final version will be shared out.

Elizabeth Williams made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Kathy Willis seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.