

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting
December 10, 2019

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Elizabeth Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Meredith Sauer and Dave Nickels were present along with Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Joanne Metzen, Director of Pupil Services. Also present were Superintendent Holzman, Lisa Johnston, and Richard Nitsch.

Middle School Update

Wilson Middle School Principal, Cory Erlandson, and Washington Middle School Principal, Lance Masters, presented an update on the implementation of the middle school model the Board approved last spring up to this point in the 2019-20 school year. Both leaders surveyed staff for feedback on how things are going. The staff from both schools identified several positives:

1. The advisory period is going well with a team of teachers helping to plan and distribute lessons to teachers for use with students during this time.
2. Team time allows for core teachers to collaborate daily and other teachers to collaborate weekly to plan together and work together to address student challenges.
3. The organization of students and teachers into houses has allowed teachers to work closely with smaller groups of students who they have been able to get to know and support on a more personal level.
4. With all students not passing at the same time, there have been fewer conflicts in hallways.
5. The grouping of house teams closer together within the buildings has allowed for smoother transitions between classes for students and greater ease of access to team colleagues for teachers.
6. The addition of 6th grade students has brought a different level of energy and fun into the school communities.

The staff feedback pointed to the following areas as challenges:

1. Intervention for 7th and 8th grade students results in students being pulled for a period of time from electives.
2. There are two different report card formats for the middle school--6th grade is standards-based while 7th and 8th grade is conventional.
3. For 6th grade, the two different elective model rotations--Art, Music, and PE on an A-B-C day rotation and What in the World, Business Ed., Tech Ed., and Family and Consumer Ed. on an everyday for a quarter rotation--is complicated.
4. The large number of elective offerings and three specific periods in which to offer them at 7th and 8th grade have resulted in it being difficult for students to get the courses they select as their top choices.

The next steps in looking further into these challenges will be to share the results of the survey with each middle school's leadership team and have them identify the priorities. Student survey data will also be collected and shared with the leadership teams. Recommendations for revisions to the current model will be developed and shared with staff and parents for feedback. Following these opportunities, the leadership teams will make any additional revisions needed and the revised recommendations will be shared with the Curriculum Committee in February.

Dave Nickels expressed concern that issues with disruptive student behavior that interferes with teaching and learning have not been addressed with the Board yet. Superintendent Holzman indicated that topic can be brought forth at a future meeting.

Packer Foundation Grant

Jason Bull indicated that, through the work of the School Forest Coordinator and two administrators, Jefferson Elementary was awarded a \$7000 grant from the Packer Foundation to purchase two basket swings that can accommodate up to five students and are usable by students of all ability levels. The total cost of the project with installation will be approximately \$9752. In addition to the \$7000 from the grant, the Jefferson PTO has raised \$1127 to contribute to the project and the MPSD Buildings and Grounds budget will contribute \$1445 for wood fiber substrate under the swings. Dave Nickels indicated it would have been more appropriate for this item to be brought to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Meredith Sauer made a motion to accept the grant with the caveat that future items of this nature be brought to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. All approved moving the grant with the contingency forward to the full Board.

Staff/Student Travel-Spanish Live

Pamela Lensmire presented a request from the Lincoln High School World Language Department to make a change in the dates for the next Spanish Live trip that was originally approved in June 2019. The requested change is to move the travel to Spain to June 18 - July 5, 2021 instead of the originally approved June 2020 travel dates. This would put the Spanish Live trips back on the desired rotation of Spanish students coming to Manitowoc in the fall and Manitowoc students traveling to Spain the following summer. In September 2020, 24 students and 2 teachers from our Spanish partner school will be hosted in Manitowoc. Dave Nickels made a motion to approve the requested change in travel dates. Meredith Sauer seconded the motion. All approved moving the request forward to the full Board.

Transition Improvement Grant

Joanne Metzen indicated that the district is eligible to receive a Transition Improvement Grant award of \$22,723.05 to utilize within special education due to having a large number of students complete a transition-related survey. Mrs. Metzen said the plan is to utilize the funds to purchase training, curriculum materials, and supplies for special education teachers to implement the Bridges math curriculum with their students. Meredith Sauer made a motion to accept the grant. Dave Nickels seconded the motion. All approved moving the grant forward to the full Board.

The Academic and Career Planning (ACP) updates were tabled and will be presented at a future meeting.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee. Dave Nickels seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.