

**Manitowoc Public School District**  
**Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting**

December 16, 2021

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Curriculum Committee Member Kathy Willis was present along with Superintendent Mark Holzman. In addition, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Lance Masters, Principal of Washington Middle School, were also present. Samantha Deeley, Barb Staude, and Heather Kunesh, MPSD Student Learning Liaisons, were present for a portion of the meeting, as well.

**Student Learning Liaison (SLL) Update**

Jason Bull introduced Samantha Deeley, the 6-12 Art SLL, Barb Staude, the K-5 Music SLL, and Heather Kunesh the 6-8 Career-Technology Education SLL, to provide information on their role as a SLL and the impact their role has on student learning.

- Samantha Deeley shared that her role is to serve as an advocate for her department, to support efficient communication between her department and administration, including the Student Learning Office, and to help facilitate the continued growth of standards-based learning within her department. Samantha shared an example of a course matrix her team put together that includes projects by standards, along with learning targets, an overview, and an assessment for each project. She explained that this provides an organization to the curriculum for the team that allows them to focus on collecting standards-based evidence of student learning that can inform the ongoing collaborative work of the team.
- Barb Staude shared that she also views her role as an advocate for her department and a promoter of effective two-way communication between staff and administration and vice versa. She said she has been able to develop her active listening and coaching skills to support her colleagues when they come to her with questions or concerns. Barb described the work her team has undergone in the last few years. Three years ago, she led the team in unpacking their new music standards and selecting power standards. Two years ago, she led the team in the development of success criteria aligned to the skills and knowledge students should gain proficiency in as specified within the standards. Last year, Barb led the team in revising the elementary report card language to correspond to the new power standards and in the alignment of the K-5 curriculum. The team also had more time to collaborate last year with the early release Wednesday schedule so they established their Professional Learning Community (PLC) processes, roles, and norms. This year, she is working with the 6-12 Music SLL to align the music curriculum across K-12.
- Heather Kunesh echoed the sentiments of her SLL colleagues indicating that she, too, sees advocacy and communication as important aspects of her role. She added that another essential task is leading her team in professional development on the staff inservice days. Heather shared that her team is composed of Family and Consumer Education staff, Technical Education staff, and Business Education staff. She has been

leading them in a collaborative look at standards and standards-based learning. She said they have spent time looking at the similarities and differences across the standards for each discipline and strengthening their cross-district collaboration to better support the needs of students.

### **Middle School Art Course Proposals**

Lance Masters, Principal of Washington Middle School, shared four course proposals from the middle school Art team that were developed in response to students' interests and needs, giving them a choice between exploring fine art or exploring digital art. He indicated that these proposals will simplify course selection for students while still ensuring they are ready for high school level art coursework by the time they leave middle school. Art 7, a fine art option, will replace Art Around the World and Art 8, the other fine art option, will replace Art Studio. Students who complete both courses while in middle school will be allowed to bypass the Exploring Art course at the high school level. The other course proposals are Digital Art and Design 1, which will be open to 7th or 8th grade students, and Digital Art and Design 2, a more advanced version of the level 1 course open to 8th grade students. Kathy Willis made a motion to send the proposals to the full Board for consideration for approval and Meredith Sauer seconded the motion.

### **Middle School Math Update**

Jason Bull provided an update that the middle school math coaches are working on establishing criteria for compacted math, defining what enrichment means in math, identifying pathways to upper level math in high school if students do not participate in compacted math, and outlining the professional development that staff would need to be able to provide higher level math instruction if compacted math was not offered. He indicated that the team will be ready to present this information to the committee in January.

Kathy Willis made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Meredith Sauer seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.