

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting
May 14, 2019

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Elizabeth Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Curriculum Committee Member, Meredith Sauer, was present along with Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Also present were Superintendent Holzman and Richard Nitsch.

Course Proposal

Jason Bull presented a proposal for a new Leadership Strategies and Practice course at Lincoln High School. The course will provide students the opportunity to learn best practice leadership techniques in the areas of professionalism, self-awareness, problem solving, and leadership theory through the lens of character education. Students will apply their newly learned leadership skills by assisting with planning and coordinating character education programming, all-school assemblies, and class meetings at Lincoln High School throughout the year. They will also develop and implement communication plans to increase student engagement in extra-curriculars. The students will work collaboratively with students and staff across the district to infuse the Character Education touchstones, as well. In addition to the course instructor, other Lincoln High School staff members will serve as mentors to the students. The course integrates well into the Academic and Career Planning process for students. Interested students will participate in an application process for the course. Between 10 to 15 junior or senior level students will be selected to participate in the yearlong course. The students may earn 0.5 credits per semester. Student performance will be assessed based upon identified social and emotional learning standards provided by DPI and subsequently identified power standards and learning targets. The approximate cost of the course will be \$1,000 for materials, texts, and equipment. Long-term goals could include the development and definition of a portfolio within the course and efforts to rebrand the current community service requirement into a service learning model to maximize benefits to the greater Manitowoc community.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to move the course proposal forward. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried and will move forward to the full Board.

Staff Travel

Jason Bull presented a request for 4 swim coaches from Lincoln High School and Wilson Junior High to attend the Central States Swim Clinic which will be held May 17 - 19, 2019 in Chicago, IL. The approximate cost to the district for the travel is \$1,960. The clinic will afford the coaches the opportunity to learn about the most innovative and best techniques for coaching young swimmers, as well as to engage in conversations with nationally and internationally recognized experts.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to move the staff travel forward. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried and will move forward to the full Board.

Pamela Lensmire presented a request for 4 to 6 staff members from the MPSD music department to engage music students in a trip to Hawaii on June 14 - 21, 2021. Depending on the number of students and, subsequently, staff attending, the approximate cost to the district for the travel will be \$5800 to \$8700. The trip will afford students the opportunity to engage in performances at historic sites such as the USS Missouri, to visit Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona memorial during the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to experience aspects of the Hawaiian culture through museum visits and conversations with indigenous people, and to participate in fun excursions to the beach and other natural sites. Scholarships are available for students who are interested in participating but unable to raise the funds needed.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to move the staff travel forward. Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried and will move forward to the full Board.

Pamela Lensmire presented a request for 3 staff members and the administrator from Stangel Elementary to attend the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions Advanced Training which will be held July 10 - 12, 2019 in Portland, ME. The approximate cost to the district for the travel will be \$4200. A combination of building budget and Student Learning Office budget allocations have been earmarked for these expenses. The training will provide staff the opportunity to learn how to address the roadblocks commonly encountered when implementing the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model, as well as strategies for addressing the needs of the most complex children. Stangel Elementary has been implementing a collaborative problem solving process based upon the work of Dr. Ross Greene for several years. Staff have participated in book studies to learn about the CPS model and have been practicing the skills and techniques outlined in the literature through collaborative conversations with one or two students from their classrooms. The administrator and school counselor have been coaching the staff in this process and seek to enhance their skills through the advanced training so that they can continue to serve as resources to staff throughout the building. The addition of two other staff members will afford the team to begin to move towards grade level teams facilitating their own meetings and supporting their peers independent of the administrator and school counselor. The benefits of the CPS approach that the school has already seen are that teachers are thinking about the why of student behavior and how to best support students in making the needed changes. Students are feeling positive about having a voice and learning to solve their own problems.

Elizabeth Williams made a motion to move the staff travel forward. Meredith Sauer seconded the motion. The motion carried and will move forward to the full Board.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Elizabeth Williams seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.