

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

May 20, 2021

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Kathy Willis and Stacey Soeldner were present along with Superintendent Mark Holzman. In addition, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, were also present. Lee Thennes, Principal of Lincoln High School was present for a portion of the meeting, as well.

**Curriculum Committee Overview**

Meredith Sauer explained that the Curriculum Committee meets once per month and that the agendas for the meetings designate topics as informational or action items. She works with Jason Bull and Pam Lensmire to set the agenda for each meeting. Meredith noted that the items the committee is asked to take action on include things like student trips, staff travel for professional development and course proposals. She also mentioned that the learning walks to the schools that the committee has engaged in previously will return in the 2021-22 school year. They were not held this school year due to COVID. These opportunities allow the committee members to visit schools and classrooms to see firsthand some of the great teaching and learning occurring across the district.

**LHS-College & Career Readiness Update**

Lee Thennes provided updates on some of the opportunities available to students at Lincoln High School to help them prepare for college and career. He explained that the Rising Phoenix Program, which is a partnership between UWGB and the MPSD, affords participating students the opportunity to earn a general education associate's degree while in high school by attending a full time schedule of courses at the UWGB Manitowoc Campus. The LHS counseling team works closely with students and their families to complete the application process for the program and the UWGB staff review the applications against criteria and decide which students are accepted into the program. Included in the criteria are students who are first generation college students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The Rising Phoenix Program courses fall under the state's Early College Credit Program so there is no cost to the students for the coursework. Through a memorandum of understanding with UWGB, the MPSD pays a reduced rate for each credit. The district is then reimbursed a portion of the cost of each credit by the state under the parameters of the ECCP.

Mr. Thennes indicated that the first cohort of 25 LHS students started the Rising Phoenix Program in fall of 2020. They earned a collective 245 college credits during semester 1 and had an average GPA of 3.16. He also mentioned that UWGB professors have been complimentary of the engagement and efforts of the LHS students in their coursework. Students receive on-campus support from a coach employed by UWGB to support their success in the Rising Phoenix Program. In 2021-22, another cohort of 25 LHS students will begin participation in the program.

Mr. Thennes explained that the College Here and Now Program, which is a partnership between LTC and the MPSD, will allow students to earn an associate's degree in computer science while in high school. The program will start in the fall of 2021 and one of our MPSD instructors will be teaching the courses. LTC is working with the MSPD team to revamp the lab at LHS so that it is a state-of-the-art learning environment for students. Currently, there are 150 students enrolled in the program. Mr. Thennes indicated that their team is starting to have conversations regarding developing similar opportunities in the areas of culinary and public safety. LHS has received grant funds to update their kitchens for culinary. Mr. Thennes has been involved in initial conversations with the Manitowoc Fire Chief about the possibility of local firefighters or police officers serving as instructors for an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification opportunity for students.

Mr. Thennes provided an overview of Youth Apprenticeship and Work Experience opportunities for students. He explained that Youth Apprenticeship is a partnership between the school and local businesses. Students are hired on as employees of the businesses and spend part of their school day working and developing employability skills through a specific curriculum, and, in some cases, taking coursework at LTC. Presently, there are 72 students engaged in the Youth Apprenticeship Program. The 159 students presently participating in Work Experience are employed by local businesses and engage in employability skill development through a specific curriculum.

Finally, Mr. Thennes explained that his team is collaborating with LTC to support the development of a grant proposal for the implementation of an Upward Bound Program at LHS focused on providing college and career readiness support to low socioeconomic students.

### **Student Learning Office Overview**

Jason Bull and Pam Lensmire provided an overview of the specific areas related to teaching, learning, assessment, and technology that the Student Learning Office Team navigates.

Stacey Soeldner made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Kathy Willis seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.