

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

June 17, 2021

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Meredith Sauer, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Kathy Willis and Stacey Soeldner were present along with Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board of Education member Lisa Johnston. In addition, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, were also present.

Achievement Gap Reduction End-of-Year Report

Pam Lensmire shared the AGR end-of-year reports from Franklin and Jefferson Elementary Schools. Both schools have utilized instructional coaching by math coaches and reading teachers as a strategy to address achievement gaps. Math coaches and reading teachers, along with EL and special education teachers, engaged in weekly collaboration with Professional Learning Community teams within the schools and supported teachers and students with strategies, materials, and modeling to boost skill development. In the area of reading, Franklin used the Letter and Sounds Assessment at the kindergarten level and running records at grades 1 thru 3 to identify students in need of additional support. Jefferson also used the Letter and Sounds Assessment at the kindergarten level and phonics assessments at grades 1 thru 3 to identify students in need of additional support. In the area of math, both schools used the Bridges Number Corner assessments, initial screener, and unit post-assessments to identify students in need of additional support. The Franklin and Jefferson teams achieved varying degrees of success in reaching the objectives they set at the beginning of the year. They faced the challenges of implementing new ways of assessing and instructing in a virtual format for much of the school year and of not being able to assess and work with some students consistently due to a lack of engagement and attendance during the school year. They will use the data on students who are still below proficiency in reading and math skills as baseline for next year's planning. Franklin and Jefferson will also be seeking the Board of Education's support in renewing their 5-year AGR contract at the June 22, 2021 meeting.

2021-22 Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Commitments

Jason Bull shared an overview of the 2021-22 Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Commitments. The commitments were developed last summer to guide the work of school staff as they engaged in the new experience of teaching and assessing student learning in a virtual model. These commitments were revised during the second semester of this year with feedback from numerous stakeholders. The 7 commitments reflect alignment of practices to the tenets of Professional Learning Communities--focus on learning, results orientation, collaboration; fidelity to a consistent scope and sequence across courses; standards-aligned learning targets, assessments, and formative feedback; learning environments that nurture the positive identify and agency of all students; and partnering with families to ensure all students achieve the MPSD college, career, and community readiness milestones. Mr. Bull explained that all staff were invited to complete a survey indicating their levels of understanding of and engagement with the practices outlined within each of the commitments. The only identifying information staff were asked to provide was their school so that the data can be shared with school leaders for inclusion

in their summer data dig and action planning sessions. 143 staff members from across the district completed the survey. Approximately 73 - 82% of staff rated themselves as having a high level of understanding of and engagement with the practices contained within the commitments. The Student Learning Office will continue to focus their work on building the capacity of staff to understand and implement the practices outlined within each of the commitments.

Summer 2021 Student Learning Office Professional Development Catalog

Jason Bull shared an overview of the Student Learning Office's Summer 2021 Professional Development Catalog. The catalog outlines several learning opportunities in the areas of literacy and math for both new and veteran teachers facilitated by teacher leaders, members of the Student Learning Office, and external facilitators. Thus far, 87 staff members have registered to participate in one or more opportunities. It will be a goal of the Student Learning Office to continue to grow the number and types of offerings in future years.

The members agreed that the Curriculum Committee will not meet in July unless something urgent arises. For the 2021-22 school year, the committee will continue to meet at 5:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting in August.

Kathy Willis made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Stacey Soeldner seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.