

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting
July 18, 2019

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Elizabeth Williams, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Meredith Sauer and Dave Nickels, were present along with Lisa Johnston, Board Member, Superintendent Holzman, Jason Bull, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Pam Lensmire, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Lee Thennes, Lincoln High School Principal, and Kyle Korinek, Lincoln High School Associate Principal, arrived near 1:30 p.m.

Student Milestones of Success and Updates

Jason Bull and Pam Lensmire presented 2018-2019 data related to the MPSD Milestones of Success. Discussion around the reading and math data shared centered on the fact that, when students fall behind in the early grades, they have to achieve at a much higher level in subsequent years to close the gaps. Therefore the milestones are set at rigorous levels. Mr. Bull and Ms. Lensmire also explained the specific plans and actions the Student Learning Office is taking to increase a focus on learning, results orientation, and collaborative culture across the district.

Co-Curricular Model

Jason Bull provided information on a new co-curricular model that will allocate Title IV funds to support non-athletic after school opportunities for students. Building leaders along with their staff members will develop a variety of 9-week activities based upon student interest. Adult leaders who facilitate the activities with students will be compensated with a \$500 stipend. The leaders will submit a roster of student participants for logging into Infinite Campus to support the collection of data for MPSD Milestone of Success #5 which addresses co-curricular participation. Dave Nickels indicated that, similar to athletic and other current co-curricular activities, the list of personnel facilitating the activities should be brought before the Board for approval. Meredith Sauer and Elizabeth Williams concurred.

Learning Walks

Pam Lensmire shared the 2019-2020 dates for Curriculum Committee Learning Walk visits to schools. The identified dates are October 29, 2019, January 29, 2020 and March 17, 2020. The schools to be visited on these dates will be shared with the committee at a later time.

2019-2020 Proposed Curriculum Committee Schedule

Jason Bull asked the members if the Curriculum Committee can continue to meet at 6:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month starting in August. The committee members indicated their agreement with this proposal.

Middle School Schedule

Meredith Sauer brought forth some questions for clarification related to the new middle school schedule model. She inquired about whether students will have opportunities to interact with other grade levels. Jason Bull indicated that the 8th grade WEB leaders will engage with 6th and 7th grade students during Advisory. Ms. Sauer asked if students will remain with their same “house” group throughout the day or if they will have opportunities to cross houses. Mr. Bull explained that students will remain in their house groups for core instruction but may interact with students in the other house(s) during elective times. Ms. Sauer inquired as to how enriched learning opportunities will occur within the model. Mr. Bull explained that it varies by content area. He explained that 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in compacted math coursework. In ELA, the structure of the workshop model offers opportunities for students to engage with books at differentiated levels of complexity, for student collaboration and choice, and for one-on-one or small group conferring with the teacher to enrich and expand their understanding of text. In the area of social studies, the interdisciplinary projects that were a part of the accelerated course sections previously will be incorporated into the curriculum for all students. The lab structure in science affords opportunities for teachers to engage students in enriched experiences through differentiated activities and higher level questioning. Lisa Johnston asked if the Board would receive regular updates on the implementation of the middle school schedule. Jason Bull explained that he and Pam Lensmire have developed a schedule of topics to be covered monthly with the Curriculum Committee and that the middle school principals are scheduled to share updates with the committee 4 times over the course of the year. Meredith Sauer asked how the success of the new middle school model will be evaluated. Mr. Bull explained that the student and parent engagement surveys will continue to be administered to garner data related to the impact of the model. Additionally, principals will share their experiences with the successes and challenges of implementing the components of the model and provide a summary of the feedback they are receiving from stakeholders when they present to the Curriculum Committee at the 4 intervals during the year. Ms. Sauer stressed the importance of regular communication with parents, as well.

Lincoln High School Laude Proposal

Lincoln High School Administrators, Lee Thennes and Kyle Korinek, shared information related to a proposal to replace the current class rank system with a Laude Honors System for recognizing academic excellence. Mr. Korinek indicated that this system encourages students to engage in a higher level of academic rigor and promotes a more equitable honors system for all students. He shared data related to the correlation between class rank and ACT scores and a Laude system and ACT scores. Mr. Korinek explained that students would earn Laude points for participation in identified rigorous coursework opportunities. Content area teams have identified a list of qualifying courses in each of their areas. The Laude points a student earns would be multiplied by the student’s overall GPA to give a Laude score which would then be used to determine if the student meets the criteria for Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude. Lee Thennes and Kyle Korinek explained that the Lincoln High School staff have helped to create the model and support the change to the Laude system. Mr. Korinek indicated that he consulted with several post-secondary institutions who said that class rank is not

necessary for enrollment or scholarships. Lisa Johnston asked if there would be a cap on the number of students who could achieve Summa Cum Laude and Mr. Korinek and Mr. Thennes indicated that there would not. Any students who meet the point criteria for one of the three Laude levels who receive those honors. The Laude Honors System proposal will be brought back to the committee in August, once a few more components are developed, with a request for approval.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Dave Nickels seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.