

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting

August 13, 2019

Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Elizabeth Williams, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Curriculum Committee Members, Meredith Sauer and Dave Nickels, were 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 Lisa Johnston.

Middle School Enrichment

Jason Bull introduced Principals Erlandson and Principal Masters to share their vision and plans to provide enrichment opportunities at the middle level. Cory and Lance first shared the methods by which students will be identified for enrichment. The identification process will be founded in using the following classroom-based approaches:

1. **IDENTIFY:** Classroom teachers collaborate around common assessments, plus STAR and FORWARD data.
2. **PERSONALIZE:** Classroom teachers collaborate to design personalized instruction carried out in the classroom setting.
3. **ASSESS:** Classroom teachers assess student mastery of the standard or target and give feedback.

Enrichment will also be provided during our Learning for All time in **7th grade** and during an elective block for **8th grade**. Core teachers will provide opportunities for deeper study and application of course content for students. See examples by department below.

1. **Math:** Because math curriculum is sequential, we are providing enrichment by compacting the curriculum and closely monitoring longitudinal results for students who demonstrate readiness, with the goal of reaching Algebra 1 by 8th grade. To accomplish this, students meeting the qualifications will be placed in compacted math beginning in 7th grade. This course will teach approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the essential elements of Math 7 and Math 8 (pre-algebra) in a single year, with remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ taught in the beginning of 8th grade Algebra.
2. **ELA:** All MPSD middle school ELA teachers will be using the Calkins Units of Study curriculum beginning in 2019-20. This approach is built around consistent personalization of learning by allowing a high degree of student choice in their reading and writing. Teachers will confer with students on a regular basis to ensure all are working at their appropriate level. Additionally, teachers can provide appropriate enrichments for select students during Learning for All (7th grade) and academic electives (8th grade), such as *Speech, Debate, Forensics, Creative Writing, Classics book study*.

3. **Social Studies:** Teachers have developed multiple interdisciplinary projects over the last few years that can be used with all students. The wide variety of roles within these projects allow for both enrichment and intervention simultaneously. Additionally, teachers can provide appropriate enrichments for select students during Learning for All (7th grade) and academic electives (8th grade), such as *Model UN*, *Current Events*, *National History Day*, *Project Citizen*.
4. **Science:** The project and lab based nature of middle school Science provides a plethora of in-class opportunities of personalization of learning. Teachers can provide appropriate enrichments for select students during Learning for All (7th grade) and academic electives (8th grade), such as *STE(A)M Lab*, *Design-Your-Own Experiments*, *Citizen Science*.

Math Resource Adoption

Jason Bull shared an update related to the move towards a K-5 Math resource adoption. Members of the Student Learning Office continue to prepare for the communication, education and implementation of a new K-5 Math resource during the 2020-2021 school year. During the 2019-2020 school year all elementary teachers will engage in a book study to ensure a common understanding of high leverage math practices and prepare all professionals for the resource implementation. Lori Williams will host a parent information night in late September, 2019 to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to understand the why, what and how of the adoption and ask questions. Copies of the resource for grade levels K-5 are now available in the Student Learning Office for review by any member of the Board of Education or general public. Lori Williams and Jason Bull will bring the request to move the Math resource adoption forward to the members of the Curriculum Committee in October, 2019.

Curriculum Committee Learning Walks

Jason Bull presented three dates to schedule Learning Walks; October 29, 2019, January 29, 2020 and March 17, 2020. The members of the Curriculum Committee requested moving forward on these dates. Jason Bull will send invites for these dates and keep the team in communication loops as we move closer to these scheduled events.

Lincoln High School Laude Proposal

Jason Bull presented the overview of the proposed Laude model at Lincoln High School founded in the below why, what and how:

Why: Implementing a Laude Honors system allows for the recognition of academic excellence based on a system of consistently applied standards rather than relative measures of performance and peer comparisons (GSP). This system encourages a higher level of academic rigor (which improves testing scores) and promotes a more equitable honors system for all students.

What: The Laude system would replace the current class rank system used to rank and differentiate students. Students would earn Laude points for taking rigorous coursework. These points would be multiplied by the student's overall GPA to give a Laude score which would then be used to determine overall Laude ranking

How:

- The Laude system would first go into effect for the freshmen class of 2020-2021 following a year-long communication and listening session process with all stakeholders
- Each department identifies courses that are deemed "Laude" courses. Students earn 0.5 Laude points for each semester of course completion.
- A student's total Laude points is multiplied by their overall GPA to give them a running Laude Score
- Upon completion of the first semester of their senior year, students are identified as Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude

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 August 27, 2019.

School Showcase

Pamela Lensmire presented a revised model for School Showcase presentations. The changed model would ask each school to provide the Board of Education with an update once per school year as it relates to their progress and work to grow a collaborative culture, a focus on learning, results orientation and character education. All members of the Curriculum Committee support the revised model for School Showcase presentations.

Staff Travel

Pamela Lensmire presented a request for members of the McKinley Learning Community to travel to Washington DC, June 1-June 5, 2020. The students who attend McKinley Academy have not usually had many opportunities to travel, both in and out of the state. McKinley leaders want to provide a trip that would be beneficial and educational. These leaders will take students to historical sights and museums to supplement U.S. and World History, Civics, Science, and other subjects. The team will also arrange a visit to a university or college campus. The main goal is to bring the students to Washington D.C., however, recognizing that fundraising is going to be a challenge, the alternative plan is to go to Chicago and visit the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, and The Art Institute of Chicago. Members of the Curriculum Committee had a few questions related to the fundraising plans and availability of this opportunity for all learners. Pamela Lensmire will secure the answers to these questions and bring this proposed travel back to the Curriculum Committee in September, 2019.

Meredith Sauer made a motion to adjourn the Curriculum Committee; Dave Nickels seconded the motion. The Curriculum Committee meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.