

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Board of Education Curriculum Committee Minutes

October 9, 2012

The Curriculum Committee convened at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 8th to review changes in course names, course descriptions and new courses proposed for implementation in 2013-14. Chairman Chrystal Myer and Committee members Linda Gratz and Catherine Shallue were present along with Superintendent Mark Swanson, and Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Marcia Flaherty. Also present were Department Heads Peggy Bolle-English, Kit Deubler-Math, and Duane Deicher-Physical Education.

Peggy Bolle described how the new Common Core State Standards English Language Arts curriculum has resulted in changes to the courses provided for secondary students. The Course of Study Bulletin for the junior highs and high school will reflect the changes, effective 2013-14. Specifically, each high school student will take English Foundation courses in grades 9-11 which will include the state standards for reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language in grade specific classes. For example, all students in 10th grade will take the 10th grade Foundation English Class. Students will continue to have options for accelerated, IB, and AP English. Elective English courses will also continue to be offered. In some cases, the electives will be offered every other year, rather than annually. The Foundation English classes require board approval.

Kit Deubler stated the changes to the new Common Core State Standards for Math also resulted in streamlining courses for students. The course entitled Pre-Algebra will be absorbed into the Integrated Algebra class. A class entitled Applied Math will now be absorbed into Integrated Geometry. Mr. Deubler described the rationale behind these changes by stating, out of fairness to students, the students need to take a specific sequence of classes in order to be on track for the mandated standardized tests that will be required of all students in 2014-15. No new courses are added for Math, so no board approval is needed.

Duane Deicher, Phy. Ed. Department Head described several changes that will provide greater clarity to students in the courses to be offered in 2013-14. Changes include making sure students are aware Lifeguard Training requires students to be able to swim. Also the courses Officiating and Coaching, and Recreational Games will be offered every other year, rather than annually. None of the phy. ed. changes require board approval.

A new course is being proposed by Kari Krull, Coordinator of Career & Technology Education. The course, Advanced Programming and Video Game Design is proposed as a follow-up to the course Programming and Video Design. The course will provide an opportunity for students to earn credit at LTC, while in high school. The new course requires board approval. Several additional changes to course descriptions are recommended from the Family/Consumer Ed. department. The list of changes is included in the attachment.

A new Art class is proposed by Vicky Molitor, Art Department Head. The class is designed to provide students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to learn and explore a variety of art media in one class. The course proposal is included in the packet.

A motion was made by Linda Gratz, seconded by Catherine Shallue to recommend the approval of the courses presented. Motion carried.

Marcia Flaherty presented a new Academy Class for staff. The course, Techniques for At-Risk Learners, will be taught by Lisa Backman. Linda Gratz made the motion to recommend the Academy Class, seconded by Catherine Shallue. Motion carried.

Marcia Flaherty provided a brief update on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. She described teachers are working very hard, with long hours, in order to prepare lessons and assessments for their students. She distributed brochures that describe the standards for each grade level K-6. The brochures were distributed to parents, and will be included on the district website.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Flaherty
Director of Elementary and Secondary Education