

Curriculum Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
District Office Presentation room

Minutes

Members in attendance: Julie Altman, Diane Crocco, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, James Horowitz, Mary Raiola, Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Sheila Wycinowski, Richard Dellinger

Special Guests: Rocco Palmieri, Warren Gohsler, Thayer Doyle

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chairperson, Julie Altman.

Approval of Minutes – May 23, 2011

The first order of business was the approval of minutes. Tom Hurley made a motion to accept the minutes. Rita Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Update on Ipad Initiative

Ms. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler and Thayer Doyle gave the committee an update on the Ipad initiative. They both described the rollout in their respective schools. Thayer Doyle shared the results of the survey administered at Bethany. Mr. Doyle also described the design of the Pilot in Bethany. Mr. Hurley had questions about how the Pilot will be managed next year. Kathy and Thayer discussed possible scenarios for the continuation of the Ipad Pilot. The committee encouraged the Administration to continue collecting data. Board members asked about student/parent reaction to the Pilot and the administrators noted the response has been positive. Mr. Horowitz noted that students still need to learn the basic skills as they use technology in their daily lives.

Technology Vision/Initiatives/Training – Budget 2012-2013

Mr. Rocco Palmieri and Mr. Warren Gohsler presented the committee with an overview of the Technology Budget and the forecast. Mr. Palmieri also presented new equipment and replacement requests outlined in the budget and forecast. Mr. Hurley asked about the long term forecast and expressed his need to see the total budget/forecast and vision prior to the budget cutting process.

Mrs. Wycinowski noted the State is requiring districts to revise their 3 year Technology Plans. The Technology Committee will begin their work in December and will submit the plan first to ACES in March for review. Then the plan will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee BOE in April and the Board of Education in May for approval. The plan then will be submitted to the State Department of Education. Teachers will form a “Think Tank” group and will visit exemplary schools beginning in December and will share their findings with the Technology Committee. The visitations will assist the Technology Committee in preparation of the plan. The Curriculum Committee will hold a meeting in January to continue discussion on the technology plan.

New Text Proposals 2012-2013

Mrs. Wycinowski presented three the new texts:

Stats in Your World

This text is for the new Stat class. The text is rigorous and has real life applications and online access. Mr. Barretta is requesting 56 copies @115.97 for a total cost of \$7500.00 (includes shipping).

The Namesake

This text will be used as an additional text in English III AP Grade 11. The book is a favorite AP choice and has been a choice on the AP Exam. The book has been piloted with students and has been well received. Ms. Chevan is proposing 40 books @ \$12.71 for a total cost of \$508.40.

Punto Y Aparte Spanish in Review, Moving Toward Fluency (Expanded Edition) – Spanish 5

This text stresses fluency, grammar, and a wide range of themes for discussion. The current text is a 1995 edition and is falling apart. Ms. Miranda is proposing 80 texts @\$ 91.00 for a total cost of \$7200.00. The online version is a yearly cost of \$62.50 per student. Ms. Miranda is proposing the purchase of the textbook at this time.

Tom Hurley made a motion to approve all 3 texts. James Horowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

New Course Proposals 2012-2013

Shakespeare – Honors Level

Currently this course is offered only at Level One. Ms. Chevan is proposing students be allowed additionally to contract for Honors level. No new staff is needed and teachers will develop advanced curricular materials/assessments. No new texts are needed.

Tom Hurley made a motion to approve. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Latin 4-H AP Vergil

Latin 4 Honors will become AP Vergil. Enrollment has increased in Latin 4. No new staff is needed. No text available at this time. We will use current text. A text is not available do to a change in AP standards. We will need a text and workbooks in the future. Projected total will be \$100.00 per student. Mr. Horowitz asked how much summer work would be required. Mrs. Wycinowski stated all AP courses require summer work.

Tom Hurley made a motion to approve . Rita Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Studio Recording

This is a half year course requested by students. It is an elective course open to all students. Students will learn how to use advanced recording equipment and will develop an online radio station. The department does not need new equipment and no new staff is required.

Digital Art

This is an elective Grade 10 course. Students need to continue to expand their knowledge and skills in creating and evaluating Digital Art. No new staff is needed and supplies are in the technology budget.

Music Technology – Composition

This course is the second level of the scope and sequence in Electronic music. Many progressive schools offer all level of electronic music. Students will perform and burn their own CD's. No new equipment is needed at this time and no new staff is needed.

Chamber Music – Small Ensembles

This course is a strings elective opened to grades 9-12. This course will allow students to gain skills performing in more challenging pieces of music. It will allow students to gain leadership skills. No new staff is needed. Sheet music will be ordered, costs will be minimal.

Introduction to Conducting

Students will learn the basics of conducting. They will be taught by the Amity Strings teacher and guest conductors. This is open to all students Grades 9-12. No new staff is needed and the only supplies that are needed are batons.

Rita Gedansky made a motion to accept all of the music classes. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Broadcast Journalism: Producing and Presenting the News

This is a semester course offered to students in Grades 10,11,12. Students in Broadcast II Journalism will be in the same class as students in Broadcast Journalism I. Students will have more rigorous project requirements. No new staff needed.

James Horowitz made a motion accept the new course. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Public Comment

None

There was a discussion about the new courses and ECA. It was noted ECA has appeal to students beyond the identified new course offerings. The committee asked Dr. Britton to discuss at a future meeting, courses that are being eliminated from the course selection booklet.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/ckl