

Victor Central School District

Agenda/Minutes

Curriculum Council Meeting

April 15, 2021

3:45 - 5:00 pm

Zoom Meeting: [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 840 0260 5676

Passcode: 157201

Slide Deck

Roles:

Facilitator:

Minutes: Tom Zaccardo

Time Keeper:

Brian Siesto

Members In Attendance: Leah Besaw, Luciana Cursino-Parent, Bobbie Dardano, Dave Denner, Melissa Goh, Deb Leh, Lauren Less, James Mauro, Kelly McLaughlin, Julie Merges, Elizabeth Mitchell, Carol Prescott, Brian Siesto, Kristin Swann, Melinda Wade, Tom Zaccardo

Dispute Resolution Representatives: Carol Prescott, Jim Mauro

Invited Guests: Laura Davis, Karen Brion, Brian Gee, Jim Mauro, Valarie Pezzimenti, Brian Siesto, Kevin Swain, Kevin Swartz, Paula Smith

#	Topic/Subject	Person Responsible (if not all)	Time Allotted	Purpose/ Proposed Action				
				For Info	Work Session	Make Recommendation	Assign Task	Make a Decision
Opening								
1	Welcome	Facilitator	2 min					
2	Approve minutes of March 10, 2021	Facilitator	2 min					Make A Decision: Minutes will be reviewed electronically before the May meeting and approved at that time.

3	Review Agenda	Facilitator	1 min	
Guest Presentation				
4	Update: Science 6-8 & Acceleration	Karen Brion James Mauro Kevin Swain Mindy Wade Kristin Swann	20 min	<p>For Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extension of the Science Curriculum Review ● Focus on grades 6-8 Science pathways for students ● Jim Mauro sharing on 4-6 grade band <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highlighted the changes to how science is delivered 4-6 ○ In the past 6th graders received 40 minutes of science for 1/3 of the school year ○ Concerns about past 6th graders could have science in the first third of the year and not again until the following school year. ○ Practices are updated to give 6th graders 1/2 year of science for 40 minutes like they do in grades 4-5 ● Much of this work stems from the implementation of the new state standards for science. ● Currently in the phase where we are developing capacity to implement new standards correctly ● Science pathway ensures exposure to science in all 3 bands ● Ensuring multiple entry points to acceleration ● Mindy Wade sharing information about different pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Path 1: Science 7, Science 8, Earth Science then Liv. Environment ○ Path 2: (Students who require help) 7, 8, CT Living Environment, Earth Science ● Karen Brion sharing information about grades 11-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Path A: Chem, Physics ○ Path B: Chem/Physics insights, then either Regents Chem or

				<p>Physics or two electives as a senior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Path C: Environmental Science, then Chem Physics Insights or two electives as a senior ● Kevin Swain sharing acceleration pathway in grades 7-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current practice: 6th grade students get recommended for accelerated science, in 7th grade students take accelerated science in 8th grade Earth Science then 9th grade Liv. Env ○ In 10th grade Chem and then either Regents Physics or AP Physics 1, many students take AP Bio on 11th grade...there is some flexibility ○ There are several high level accelerated courses AP Physics C (Calc BC) ● Kristin speaking to barriers to acceleration as currently laid out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current 7-8 grade does not offer condensed curriculum to address all standards ○ The switch from earth science to Grade 8 for students that are struggling is difficult because standards do not line up. Transition doesn't go well for students ● New Proposal for acceleration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From NYS, VCS selected a pathway where in grade 8 Middle school earth and space science will be taught, not physical science ○ Grade level students will take living environment in 9th grade, accelerated students would take an honors living environment after earth science in 8th grade ○ This pathway allows for much more flexibility as far as students flowing between acceleration and
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				<p>grade level without a detrimental effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Benefits to students<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More access to standards for accelerated students○ Smoother transition from accelerated to grade level in 8th grade because of focus on earth science○ More opportunities to take AP classes at the SH○ Flexibility for students to challenge themselves as they grow as students○ Recommendation for acceleration is now going to be a year later after 7th grade● Suggested time frame<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Within the next few years, students will have more options based on the plan● Next steps<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Feedback○ Present to board○ Write new curriculum○ PD around implementing the standards○ Consideration of supplies and materials for teachers● Curriculum feedback and questions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elizabeth Mitchell: From a parent perspective appreciates multiple pathways. Curious about the percentage of acceleration vs. traditional pathways?○ Kevin Swain typically around 40% of the class is accelerated in science○ Elizabeth asked about double acceleration in math and being allowed to do so in science○ Karen said no double acceleration in science but allowed to double up in later years in science.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luciana Cursino-Parent: Clarification between Honors, Regents and AP ○ Karen Brion: Regents honors will be a more rigorous course, not quite pre-AP but keeping that in mind. Honors will allow accelerated students to have their own separate classes and allow teachers to go more in depth and be challenged. ○ Kristin addressed science 7-8 and does not want the thought to be that 7th grade science will be less rigorous as it will not be that way. ○ Carol Prescott provides a parent perspective about lack of focus on science in prior years and frustration about the amount of science in intermediate school. Carol expresses a need for communication about changes so the change and purpose of them is clear so parents understand the new pathways thoroughly. ○ Carol believes parents want this but communication is key. ○ Leah Besaw: From a parent perspective 6th grade teachers have limited time for science and appreciates the decision for acceleration to not be made until after 7th grade. ○ Kristin closes by saying this presentation will be given to the Board of Ed in May ○ If from now until May meeting, there are questions to please ask.
5	Erin's Law (4:15)	Kristin Swann and Laura Davis	20 min	<p>For Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kristin going over background and purpose of Erin's Law

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on teaching students age - appropriate techniques to recognize abuse and report it appropriately ● Requires district to provide instruction in this area that is age appropriate and provide resources to students and families on how to find help. ● Where might this already be addressed in current curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Davis examined the curriculum for where we are already meeting Erin's Law in VCS ○ The curriculum gaps exist primarily at the K-6 level. At the 7-8 level there are health teachers who focus on Erin's Law curriculum. There are no health teachers at elementary level ○ Falls on classroom teachers at those levels to teach Erin's law on top of general curriculum ● Are there other resources or avenues to bring lessons to younger grade levels? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, non-profit local social service agency ○ No charge for people in need of services ○ Has been providing primary prevention education since 1982 in this area ○ Safe Harbors has lessons they can implement in the K-6 levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 30 minute lesson in K ■ 1 45 minute lesson in grades 1-3 ■ 1 60 minute lesson in grades 4-5 ■ 2 45 minute lessons in grade 6 ○ These lessons would help close gaps in Erin's law ● Scheduling with Safe Harbors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lessons taught by trained professionals in small groups
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lessons delivered one class at a time, not to large group○ Lessons can be differentiated for students with disabilities○ Remote and in person lessons○ Overview of topics at each grade level.○ Kristin encourages council members to perhaps use links in presentation to view videos that Safe Harbors uses○ Grade band objectives also linked○ PPS and teachers present for every lesson to watch for responses from students during the presentation.○ At the end of lesson there is a talk sheet to drive conversation around the lesson.○ Other districts have said there are often disclosures at the close of the Safe Harbors lessons.● Family communication is essential.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Shared parent letter○ Parents are allowed to excuse a child from instruction. Opt out process.● Curriculum Council feedback:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bobbie Dardano: As a parent, would the talking points be shared so that parents can reinforce the lessons being shared?○ Kristin says yes, that can happen.○ Elizabeth Mitchell: Will languages other than english have access to materials in their native language?○ Kristin is not sure about videos but written materials could be translated.○ Kelly McLaughlin agrees that materials must be available in multiple languages including any supporting materials that are sent home.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim Mauro sees the professionals from Safe Harbors come in to deliver the instruction as a benefit. ○ Feedback from Canandaigua was very positive (they currently use Safe Harbors). ○ Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kristin and Laura will go back to the committee and share feedback from the Curriculum Council. ■ Get initiative up and running for next school year.
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Old Business

6	New Course Proposal Form	All	5 min	Make A Decision:
7	Curriculum Responsiveness GVPTA DEI Part 1 Links GVPTA DEI Part 1 Questions 20-1202 DEI Event - Racism & Redlining in the Rochester Region Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Framework	Carol Prescott and Bobbie Dardano	20 Min	For Information:
8	Learning Management System	Hold for this month		

New Business

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Closing

10	Review Parking Lot & Assigned Tasks	Minute Taker	2 min	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minute Taker for May: Leah Besaw2. Time Keeper: Luciana Cursino- Parent3. Facilitator: Brian Siesto
11	Creation of Next Agenda and Roles	Minute Taker	4 min	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Culturally responsive education presentation that we did not get to this month (see this agenda for complete info as it was slated)2. Curriculum management presentation continued. Presenter from ATLAS program.3. Approve March minutes via email and discuss next meeting
12	Parking Lot Attendant		2 min	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update: ELA2. Update: Professional Development3. Update: Comprehensive Guidance Plan (June)4. Review of Goals
13	Round Table	All	2 min	

Future Dates: 5/13, 6/10