

Waunakee Community School District
BOE-Curriculum Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2011

Time: 3:30 P.M.

District Administration Center-905 Bethel Circle

BOE Members: Julie Waner and Joan Ensign. Karla Homan was absent.

1. Call to order-*The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m.*

2. Public input on agenda items-*None.*

3. Legislative Changes

a. Wisconsin Act 105 (Mandate Relief Bill)-*Tim Schell summarized the major curriculum changes contained in Wisconsin Act 105. The most significant change is the option for districts to allow students to count an organized physical activity toward 0.5 credits of physical education if they use the credit to substitute for a core content area class. Wisconsin requires 1.5 credits of physical education for graduation. Jason Cole and Ann Denkert represented the Phy.Ed/Health department's concerns with the bill and answered questions regarding the high school physical education courses. Brian Smith was also present. The Phy.Ed/Health department will return for the February committee meeting for more information and the topic will be presented to the Board at its regular March meeting. School board members are invited to visit, and participate if interested, the high school physical education classes for first hand information on what is taught.*

b. Pending SB 237 (Human Growth and Development Bill)-*Tim reviewed the pending legislation revising state requirements for Human Growth and Development education. The proposed bill places a priority on teaching abstinence and the overall set of language on curriculum provides local districts with flexibility. The most significant change is that staff (and staff spouse) participation on the committee is capped at 25%. Once the law is enacted, our local curriculum will be reviewed.*

4. Common Core Update

- a. *English Language Arts-Lisa Carothers updated the committee on progress implementing the Common Core English Language Arts standards at the 7-12 level. Her outline is attached. The expectations are high, but our secondary English programs are beginning the work from a strong position. The expectations for writing and use of language are more sophisticated and more rigorous expectations are appearing in lower grade levels. Elementary literacy will be reported on later this year.*
- b. *Mathematics (with update on changes in Math since 2007)-Jane Fazio and Erin Schroeder updated the committee on progress implementing the Common Core Mathematics standards and also on how our changes to the math program have progressed since 2007. 7-12 curriculum is being gradually updated and we are reviewing options with K-6 materials. Consultant Mary Freytag worked with grades K-3 in November and we will be formalizing our expectations for assessing computational fluency at the elementary level. Student performance on all measures has increased since 2007. This year, juniors and seniors had the option to take the UW System Early Math Placement Test and the math department and students are reviewing the results.*

5. Updates

- a. *Social Studies Action Plan-Tim updated the committee on Social Studies data gathering. Course request data will be available for the March meeting.*
- b. *Online Learning-Tim reported that we are considering joining the Wisconsin eSchool Network to increase our access to online course content. We might team with De Forest and Sun Prairie to reduce costs. More information will be provided in February.*

6. Items for the February 22 Meeting

7. *Adjourn-Joan Ensign moved and Julie Waner seconded to adjourn. Passed 2-0 at 5:47 p.m.*

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Update
English-Language Arts, Grades 7-12

Standards

- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational Text
- Writing (informative, persuasive, narrative)

- Language (grammar, vocabulary)
- Speaking and Listening

General comments

- In comparison to Wisconsin's previous state standards, the CCSS more accurately reflect how English teachers tend to talk about what we want our students to achieve
- While the CCSS are rigorous, so has been our existing ELA curriculum.
- ELA staff needs quality time in order to process, develop, implement, and revise changes. This is difficult to do during the school year.
- Several questions remain concerning how standards will be assessed, how teachers will be held accountable at the state level, etc. This makes it difficult to know if our changes are on the right track.

Actions taken so far

- Grammar goal for grades 7-12, starting 2010-2011 school year
 - Revised scope & sequence
 - MS local assessments
- Gap analysis, August 2011 for all ELA CCSS
 - Non-fiction
 - Narrative writing at 9th and 10th grade
 - Writing-based grammar
 - Comparative media
 - Speaking & listening
- New scope and sequence implementation, 2011-2012 school year
- Non-fiction pilot in English 10, fall semester, 2011
- Initial discussion between ELA and LMTC staff regarding CCSS needs, Jan 2012

Upcoming actions

- Preliminary focus of self-study addresses aspects of CCSS
- Summer curriculum writing (new courses and revisions) will align with CCSS

cc. Amy Johnson, Kurt Eley, Janet Thomas, Dan Carter, Chris Hetzel, Brian Kersten, Sheila Weihert, Marcy Peters-Felice, Dean Kaminski, Randy Guttenberg, BOE.