

*Waunakee Community School District*  
**BOE-Curriculum Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: November 30, 2011**

**Time: 3:30 P.M.**

**District Administration Center-905 Bethel Circle**

BOE Members: Julie Waner, Joan Ensign, Karla Homan

1. *Call to order by Chair Julie Waner at 3:31 p.m.*
2. *Public input on agenda items-Several teachers provided comment on the implementation of the Social Studies program evaluation action plan. Kathy Bartling (written comments attached) noted concerns about the communication process and that fewer elective slots in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade would reduce participation in elective areas including in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Kathy also spoke to the importance of a well rounded education for students. Leslie DeMuth noted the importance of design and art in many career areas and also that she wished there had been more communication to elective teachers about the proposed changes. Stacy Ryan noted that it would take time to redesign courses like Dollars and Sense that are currently targeted for 9<sup>th</sup> graders if they were to be more commonly taken by 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. She also noted that in an equivalency analysis Dollars and Sense was very close to an introductory economic/personal finance course. Rhonda Knapp noted her concern that fewer elective slots in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade would reduce the opportunity to have students concentrate in CTE areas. State-wide data has shown that CTE concentrators have good academic outcomes and higher than average GPA's and graduation rates. Rhonda also noted that it would take time to redesign CTE courses for older students.*
3. **New Course Proposals**
  - a. *AP Language and Composition-Larry Hale presented on the recommended texts for the proposed AP Language and Composition class, their rationale, and their cost. After discussion on cost to students, the purpose of texts in the course, and long term value to students, Karla Homan moved and Joan Ensign seconded to recommend the course for approval with the understanding that some books will be purchased by students. Passed 3-0. Tim Schell and Larry Hale will update the list and the Board will see it again*

*during the textbook approval process. Also, the district would cover the cost of all texts for economically disadvantaged students.*

- 4. Alternative Education-Tim Mommaerts provided an update (attached) on the district's alternative education programs. Tim and the alternative education staff have been studying best practices and what program options other districts have been offering. Tim and Scott Krause will be presenting on alternative education as the December curriculum presentation.*
- 5. Social Studies Implementation Plan (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade)-Tim Schell updated the committee on the social studies implementation plan for creating a full year World History Course at 9<sup>th</sup> grade that would replace the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade Asian and Latin American history (1 semester) and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Western Civilization (1 semester) courses and then moving US History from 11<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. A three-year phasing in of the changes would reduce, but not eliminate the staffing impact of moving the courses down in grade. Depending on when students chose to take the course, the impact is estimated at 1.0-2.0 additional FTE in Social Studies. Due to where we are at in the budget development process and the challenges of addressing existing budget needs, the administrative recommendation is to postpone implementation for a year. That will also provide time to project impacts on the elective areas and make sure that all teachers, parents, and students are well informed about the possible changes. Information on the proposed changes will be offered at the January 5 meeting for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents will be asked to submit an alternative course request for the possible scenario than can be used for future planning purposes. Curriculum development will occur for the proposed World History course and it will come through the regular course approval process. Eric Huttenburg reviewed the rationale for the proposed course changes contained within the Social Studies self-study and program evaluation action plan and noted that the communication gap was not the intent of the Social Studies department. He noted the importance of the proposed changes for improvements in student learning of Social Studies content and literacy skills and voiced concern about delaying implementation and when the budget outlook might improve. The committee agreed to table the action plan discussion until more information was available in 2012 and the topic has been more discussed at the high school. This topic also prompted discussion on what years students may take certain classes at the high school. This is a discussion that would need to occur at the high school level.*
- 6. Equivalency option-informational overview-Tim Schell presented information on the DPI course equivalency process. This is a mechanism where courses outside the graduation requirements can be reviewed for equivalency and endorsed by the district and DPI as meeting graduation requirements. Equivalency meets diploma requirements, but colleges and universities are not obligated to recognize the equivalency.*

## 7. Updates

- a. **Online Learning-***The committee met earlier in November and it was a good meeting with constructive discussions. The committee will meet again in January and discuss vision and alternatives for online learning.*
- b. **Middle School Schedule-***Marcy and her committee have been meeting and are in the process of modeling some different schedule options in Infinite Campus.*

8. **Adjourn-***Joan Ensign moved and Karla Homan seconded to adjourn. Passed 3-0 at 5:32 p. m.*

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