

Mercer Island School District
Instructional Materials Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
Board Room 4pm to 6pm

I. Minutes from previous meeting unanimously approved.

II. Adoption of Second Step Curriculum into Health Class at Islander

Several questions were raised regarding support from administrators on how to fit this curriculum into the day. MaryJo Budzius gave a brief history of small field testing last year in 6th grade health. In order to maintain integrity of language and music, it was decided not to integrate a 7th grade health class. This curriculum fits in very well with the structure of LA/SS.

Harry Brown handed out a summary of his presentation to the Committee. It included the following topics:

- Why Second Step
- Materials for Review
- Videos
- Accessing Second Step Materials

Harry explained how this program shows empathy, taking a story and breaking it down; analyzing data and what we do with this information; communicate ideas clearly; negotiating and compromising; and listening to others. Common core theme continues throughout the curriculum.

Dru Klein shared how the students cheer when they have shown up in classes at Islander.

Question was asked if any parents opted their student out of the field test. Last year one parent opted their student out of the class; this year there were none.

Question was asked about updating this 2008 copyright. Provisions are provided, but we do not know of specific ones coming out. It is part of the preface to see cultural changes.

Student members commented that they like the concept of being organized and students know what is coming next. There are many opportunities for language arts teachers to fit the vocabulary.

Fred reminded the group of a procedural reminder: the committee is recommending this for a specific class or grade level; if a change is needed, there is flexibility to work with Jennifer Wright.

Vicki motioned to approve and it was seconded by Ben.

Vote in favor of approving: all approvals with one abstention.

III. VEX Cortex Video Trainer using RobotC: Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy

Kristine Vanderhoeven, CCR Director for the District, and Sam Gadbury, Teacher, presented this curriculum for adoption of new core curriculum, "Robotics: Principles and Applications" class at MIHS. Twenty-nine kids have signed up to date.

As this is a new class for 10th to 12th graders, it meets 3rd year math option for graduation requirement, although not a college approved math option. Vicki commented on the alignment of future careers to this curriculum. This also fits into the 3 year planning process for CCR plan. Order of classes: Computer programming and advance engineering class ahead of time; but NOT necessary. Physics is pretty important and at least Algebra.

The course objectives are aligned with the Robotics Course Framework for Career and Technical Education; aligned with National Common Core, Washington State Standards and Washington State CTE Leadership Standards, as well as approved by OSPI.

Forecasts are strong. Lots of strong support from advisory members. This material fits into medical science, robotic physician here on the Island.

Sam Gadbury has set up a Robotics Club. VEX competition is done one at state and national level.

Sam showed a video on Vex, one of which students watch as part of the curriculum. Students can use their iPads and see all pdf documents. A number of aps are also available. This class involves C based programming to control your robot, not a drag and drop.

Showed basic robot that comes with the kit...picks up a 4" ball and drives around. Take apart and put back together hundred times during semester so kids get used to these tools. Carnegie wants to push idea of robotics with higher level thinking in a toy robot.

Vicki expressed interest in making sure there is balance in classes, which tend to attract males and they would recruit females into the program as more and more girls are showing interest.

Fred questioned the recognition of diverse learners: how are you going to address these kids in different levels? Video trainers are really handy. Everything written is helpful. Students work with a partner. It would be difficult for math or reading challenged kids. Not a lot of programming experience for those struggling students, but kids can excel if they are capable of high level functioning.

There are no prerequisites for the class, but it is suggested that students have at least Algebra and Physics first, Computer programming and advance engineering class ahead of time would be helpful. Sally commented that she is not sure this is appropriate for special education students.

Logistics of cost for this program:

- Startup fee of approximately \$36,000 is high; annual operating cost of approximately \$17,500. STEM grants are available; Foundation Support; and CCR budget. A student fee of \$40 will cover students' \$30 annual membership in Technology Students of America (TSA) and consumables for the class.
- As part of condition to purchase, teacher Sam Gadbury must attend Carnie Mellon training in Pittsburg this summer.
- Kits may need replacement parts; training may be necessary. Replacing tools and motors, hardware pieces. Students have to pay individual TSA club membership.

Alexis commented on the weaknesses identified by students: The book is boring and no interaction.

Competitions: Are they mandatory? No, (after school) but we encourage all students to integrate all kids into state competition; it is important part of curriculum.

How does integrate with engineering? Part of state approval process.

Motion to approve seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm