

Curriculum Meeting—January 5, 2015

Attendees: Frank Suchwala, Sue Myers, Cheryl Kessler, Larry Breech, Karen Sullivan, Sue Steiner, Cindy Jenkins

Started at 5:30 PM

Discussed course selection book, student handbook, and policy aligning with number of required credits for graduation (**corrections need to be made to course selection book**). Shared new courses teachers would like to offer and the results of a student survey requesting courses of interest. Need to find out how many **students responded to the survey** per class (2016, 2017, 2018). Shared that adding new courses could involve having to add new staff and it was offered that we have low teacher to student ratio currently. Taxpayers have expressed that they do not want to pay more taxes so need to be careful adding additional staff, especially if it can be covered by current members or online. Look at teacher certs to see what other subjects they may be qualified to teach. Also discussed the exploration in grade 8 and if we could include one in grade 7. Another option would be to co-op or distance learn with other districts, BU, IU, etc. for courses our students want, but we may not be offering (**check Keystone College too**). Drama or theater could be a club with a paid advisor. Sen. Brown is looking at teacher to student ratio and we are not in a good light because of our numbers. Discussed how the Project based assessments for failed keystones is going to impact staffing as it has to be completed in school with a certified teacher. This would be in addition to the remediation and the graduation project.

Discussed AP/Honors class' summer assignments and how they may be a deterrent for students taking the classes. Need to reduce the number of books to read over summer and have written assignments adjusted (ex. Read one book per summer and do the written assignment the first week of school, in school). Have 3 or 4 books and rotate them to avoid student not reading. Do for English and AP/Honors history classes also. AP/Honors classes need to produce quality not quantity—make sure following guidelines from College Board AP overviews and place emphasis on composition piece. This could help with college credits students receive or courses they won't have to take. Be rigorous and make students rise to teacher high expectations. Students receiving a B or C in AP/Honors class can be okay, especially when there is quality of information and assignments. (**Do more checking on credit received for Eng Lit vs. Eng Lang AP exam**). (**Also check on summer reading assignments for grade 6, 7, 8**). How can we grow the numbers for AP/Honors classes and work on increasing the AP exam scores?

Complete technology survey with teachers—what do they need in their classrooms. Tech club members could become troubleshooters/helpers for the teachers. Tech club should also be running the sound and light boards for musicals, concerts, etc. **Check on where we are with servers, etc.**

Shared different curriculums with the group and discussed a curriculum cycle for writing and purchasing resources by subject and year. Discussed how standards are the driving force for curriculum and using backward design to create it. Teacher involvement is critical as they live it daily. Could it be completed over the summer? Compensate teachers for writing curriculum as per contract. Create a working curriculum team of teachers to write it, then share with curriculum committee, and then take to Board for vote.

Discussed the possibility of utilizing Lycoming Career and Tech if students have a desire to participate in a program the CMAVTS doesn't offer. This would involve the participating districts allowing us to use an open slot and pay tuition. We would have to look into transportation, etc. This is just in the exploration stage as their program is only half day.

Ended 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Jenkins