

Curriculum Meeting 3-12-15

Attendees--Frank Suchwala, Sue Myers, Cheryl Kessler, Ed Sanders, Eric Stair, Dee Davis, Cindy Jenkins, Carol Troisi, Sue Steiner, Melissa Richter, Rebecca Walker, Kim Bolig

Started at 5:30 PM

Kim Bolig from Bloomsburg University spoke about their STEM Magnet program for high school juniors and seniors. Program started 2 years ago with 3 districts, added 5 more in year 2 and will add 3 more in 2015-16. It is for high achieving students, is a hands on program, and provides mentors for the students. Students apply in the spring of their sophomore year (April 15) and are notified by May 1. There is financial aid available from BU. Student criteria is the completion of Algebra I and II, Geometry; recommendation from teacher/counselor; and 95% attendance rate. BU works with the high school to make sure the student graduates and gets college credits.

There was discussion about reducing the number of credits required for graduation. Discussed eliminating the senior project presentation and combining Unified Arts/Humanities with Fine Arts for a total of 2 credits. The requirements for Keystones-remediation if fail the test and a project if fail the test a second time was discussed as some students may have to do 3 Keystone remediations/projects for graduation. It was recommended that remediation be a full period within the student day, not during activity period.

Tasked to find out how many neighboring districts are requiring a senior graduation project. Also discussed student/teacher ratio and how scheduling the necessary classes for students can be challenging.

Cyber classes--needs to be a policy with specific guidelines. Discussion included having them on transcripts and included in GPA. Consideration and guidelines have to be in place for how to provide support for our special education students. Some students want to take cyber class to get out of Honors level work, it then request to get back in the class part way through the year. Sidebar conversation about summer reading assignments occurred. Mrs. Richter explained that the number of novels would be reduced to 2 and written assignments would be decreased also. The exception would be for AP English because this is a college level course. Novels would be handed out in June prior to the end of the school year.

Reading for grades 4-6--Mr. Sanders discussed using Journeys (resource that grades K-3 use) and shared the quote from the company. This would build continuity and the grade level novels would be supplemental materials. Mr. Sanders shared that he had spoken with the teachers for their input. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Further investigation is being completed.

Curriculum cycle will be revised and presented at next Board meeting. This is a map of what curriculums need to be rewritten and when with consideration of purchasing new resources the following year. This is a 5 year rotating schedule.

Core aligned curriculum will be written based on curriculum cycle. Teachers will be asked to help revise them over the summer.

Technology reimplementation plan--this is being worked on with the admin team and teacher input. This involves collecting all devices prior to the end of the current school year for

reconfiguring. Discussion also involved upcoming meeting for admin and Board with Apple rep to learn about trade in of devices and possibly going to one platform for all students K-12.

Transition for special education--Mrs. Davis shared the requirements for transitioning students and discussed what the program would need to look like to be compliant.

Co-op program--shared that we were researching this possibility. Mr. Dolak and Mr. Furman would be willing to be involved. It requires some course work on their part. It would not be in effect until 2016-17 school year in order to allow us time to create a plan with guidelines and criteria.

Early graduation--discussion about juniors graduating early if they have all their required credits and then coming to walk with their respective class. Further discussion needed.

Closed at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Jenkins
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