

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of June 20, 2013

PRESENT: Cheryl Kessler, Susan Myers, Frank Suchwala, and Kathee Stark. Also present were Kathy Bower, Wendy Faatz, Carol Troisi

The meeting began at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance . Guests were asked if they had anything thing to share or ask. Wendy asked whether it might be possible for her daughter to spend part of the school day assisting in a special education classroom for which she would receive credit. It was indicated that, to receive credit, there would have to be some form of accountability. For example, she might be asked to keep a journal and do a final paper. The grade would likely be pass/fail. We already allow students to take courses as independent study. These are usually computer or art for which the students produce a final product. Wendy was receptive to an accountability factor. The committee members support further steps toward making this experience a possibility for many students. It was suggested that oversight could be provided by the new gifted teacher.

The committee was provided with an update of initiatives from PDE. The Keystone exams and Common Core were given a better chance of approval due to a resolution passed last week. The Keystone results are due out next week, but they still have not been approved by the USDOE to measure AYP. Kathee went over the SLO forms which were released about 2 months ago and compared them with the new ones issued this week. There are great differences, and they must be ready to be utilized for evaluation within one year.

The committee was informed that about twenty teachers have indicated an interest in participating in a curriculum review. The Budget Committee affirmed the payment of a stipend for those who participate. They will be asked to spend two mornings reviewing the curricula, making a decision on whether to adopt them, and beginning to make alterations, if needed.

The committee affirmed the plan to implement 1:1 computing in grades K – 12. This will include iPads for classroom use in grades K – 3, with iPads distributed to each student in grades 4 – 6. Mac laptops will be distributed to students in grades 7 – 12. Seniors will be given a choice of a Mac or Windows laptop for this year. Carol indicated that she plans to use the iPads during Summer Learning Camp. Computers will be ordered and distributed to faculty this summer. Grade and subject specific training will be provided to faculty, and they will be given the opportunity to develop lessons prior to distribution to students.

The committee was provided information on Brain Ware which is designed to increase cognitive skills of those who utilize the program. Schools in the IU are being offered special pricing. There was also a discussion of Infinitec programs, as well as Techbooks from Discovery Learning. Book purchases are being delayed until faculty have the opportunity to review the new curricula and

determine the best choices in textbooks, which may be online sources. The sample of a Techbook which some saw during the Tech Expo was discussed with very positive comments.

The committee was informed that there were insufficient students willing to be part of the LCCC Dual Enrollment. Two current faculty members would have been eligible to teach classes in the school.

The committee discussed transportation for the Summer Learning Camp and agreed with the recommendation of the Budget Committee that the district provide transportation for all interested students. The committee was also informed that the only changes in the Student Handbook are on pages 9 and 10 with the increase in the credits to reflect the change in policy, as well as a notation that all students will be required to complete at least 7 credits.

The committee met in Executive Session for personnel and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathee Stark