



CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING

2/18/2019 [4:00PM-5:00PM] @ District Office Board Room

Roll Call

Present: Missy Kunder, Stacy Winslow, Shari Taylor-Stuckey, Kathy Sicher, Lindsey Schmidt, Nancy Kiscadden, Jeffrey Smith, Christine Hicks, Mary Dague, Tricia Steiner, Zvezdana Sever Chronesos, Paula Soni

Absent: Dave Sweigert, Traci Landry, Lisa Sviben Miller, Peter Ebert, Jackie Castleman, Renee Owens, David Yingst, Kimberly Dilger, Laura Alexander, Anna Gawel, Terry Singer, Erick Valentin, Maria Memmi, Derek Dietz, Donna Cronin, Lindsay Drew, Lewis Shaw

Attendance Updates:

- Jeff Mummert John Abel. (Write-In at 02/19/2019 1:02 PM)
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1. Call To Order

Minutes

The Curriculum Council Meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm. This meeting has been rescheduled from February 11, 2019 snow day.

Board Member John Abel was in the audience for this meeting and was voted in as a voting Board member due to the absence of Board members Donna Cronin and Kip Shaw. Without this vote, the meeting would not meet a quorum and would have needed to be rescheduled. A motion was made by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Tricia Steiner to vote John Abel as acting voting Board Member for the Curriculum Council. Thank you to John Abel for accepting the vote.

2. Election of Chair

Minutes

A motion from Trish Steiner and seconded by John Abel to nominate Kathy Sicher as Curriculum Council Chairperson. Mrs. Sicher accepted the nomination. A vote was taken to approved Mrs. Sicher as Chairperson all were in favor.

3. Review of Summary Notes

4. Informational

a. Full Day Kindergarten Update - Ms. Lindsey Schmidt

Minutes

Ms. Lindsey Schmidt was introduced by Dr. Winslow to present to the Council an update on the Full Day Kindergarten program. Dr. Winslow reminded the Council Full-day Kindergarten is one of the goals the Curriculum Council chose for the 2018-2019 school year.

Highlights were presented to the group:

- 12 Kindergarten teachers were acknowledged. This year 239 kindergarten students started the year. This is the most kindergarteners we have ever had. We are up from 198 last year.
- Full day Kindergarten has allotted time for the teachers to really implement play, academics, arts and crafts in the classroom, and just be able to move through the curriculum. Previously we had full day curriculum in a half day program.
- Students are coming in each day and get to participate in essential arts, and time with their teacher and their community building their social skills. The second point is the students have time to play, create, and share with each other.
- Relationship with students and families have improved. Last year each teacher had 40 students and families, this year they have been able to form this connection with home and school. Majority of our teacher use a blog form to allow families to be included in their child's education.
- One item we are still working through and with total transparency is our students are coming into the classroom with some huge need outside the academic realm. Some students bearing some trauma, we need to continue to purposely plan ways to support our staff in order to support our students with that trauma informed care. Mr. Stauffer our counselor has been working with the teachers on this matter.
- This year we have a waiver and at the start of school we had 14 students on this waiver. We were down to 6 but a new enrollment chose the waiver which brings our number to 7. Our schedule is built around the waiver.

Question: How do we bridge the trauma and the home life. Dee Stalnecker our Social Worker bridges home and school. We still need to find ways to reach some of those families that is a little more difficult to be present in their students education. Mrs. Sicher offered to help with speaking to resources outside our township.

b. High School Grading Update - Mr. Jeff Smith

Minutes

Dr. Winslow announced Mr. Jeff Smith our high school principal will give an update on High School Grading. Dr. Winslow reminded the Council that this was also a 2018-2019 goal of the Curriculum Council. Mr. Smith handed out some resources to the council which explains how our system compared to other schools is operating. For example if you have a 94% or 75% that is what is reported on your report card. Although we claim to have a 4.0 GPA grade scale, we are different from our neighboring schools.

- First thing was to look at 27 schools as a group (with Department Chairs) to see what others are doing.
- Mr. Smith reviewed three schools from this group and explained in more depth their grade scales and scoring.
- Through Naviance we can pull, SAT, GPA, and get a point. In looking at our GPA's in comparing our students with other schools you can see our students may not be getting all the credit they deserve in their quality point calculation. The system we are currently using has been around for many years.
- We submit a student profile to colleges so they can see a snap shot of what our school is made of. Many college will give this a look and will give the college an idea of what kind of high school we have.
- Why are we considering this change? Comparing schools that we are competing against for scholarships, etc. we are selling our kids short a little bit. So other schools would have 94% as a 4.0 but our students that have a 94% are 3.55. College will tell you they are recalculating but are the organizations that are giving scholarships recalculating?
- Mr. Smith reached out to about 20 college admission officers, only 3-4 responded and no one gave

an answer or emailed him back regarding the recalculating.

- Many scholarships will ask for your GPA and other schools will report 4.0, when we are reporting 3.67
- Mr. Smith explained that he meets with department chairs monthly and they take time out of the meeting to discuss this scale grading. They have decided to talk about a (+ -) grading, so if a student gets a grade of 81 compared to a student that gets an 89, the (+ -) would make more sense.
- This would be implemented in the class of 2020 for incoming freshmen.
- A decision will be made by April. Dr. Winslow asked if it could be brought to the Council for review at the end of March.
- Messaging and communication will need to be sent to families.
- Report cards will show parents actual percentages, but transcripts will show A, A-, B+, B, B- etc.
- Dr. Winslow will look to see if this needs board approved or just board informed.

c. High School Credits for Middle School Students

Derry Township Schools have a long-held tradition of academic excellence and make it a part of our daily vision to help students discover and use their passions and talents. We have incredible students with a strong drive for learning. In recent years, we have had quite a few students accelerate above grade level and ultimately take classes in the high school while still in their middle school years. The majority of these students have (and are) taking mathematics courses, but a few have branched out into the social sciences and computer programming.

It has been district practice to refrain from awarding high school course credits to middle school students. As we work to provide opportunities for our students, we revisited this past practice and determined that middle school students who have accelerated beyond what middle school courses can offer and are therefore taking classes in the high school will be awarded high school credits.

In researching this change, the district has confirmed that it is a local decision whether or not to award high school credits to middle school students. We have also investigated PIAA and Clearinghouse eligibility requirements to ensure that there would be no impact on a future desire to participate in college athletics.

At this time, we have decided to move forward with a change in practice beginning with students who are currently in the Freshman class. Hershey Middle School students, whose academic needs cannot be met in the middle school curricular offerings and who take classes in the high school will be awarded high school credits. As mathematics is the most common area for this type of acceleration, an example would be a student who was able to complete both Algebra I and Geometry by the end of 7th grade and therefore would move onto a high school mathematics course as an 8th grade student.

5. Items for Discussion

6. New Business

a. Textbook Recommendation: American History. AP Edition

Curricular Area	Social Studies
Subject/Course	AP US History
Grade Level(s)	11, 12
Copyright Date	2015
Title	American History, AP Edition
Author	Brinkley
Publisher	McGraw Hill

Minutes

A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Tricia Steiner. This AP US History book will be on display for 30 days in the district office.

b. Textbook Recommendation: Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture

Curricular Area	Social Studies
Subject/Course	AP Human Geography
Grade Level(s)	10, 11, 12
Copyright Date	2015
Title	Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture
Author	H.J. De Blij
Publisher	Wiley

Minutes

A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by John Abel. This AP Human Geography will be on display for 30 days in the district office.

7. Old Business

8. Public Comment

9. Next Meeting - March 11, 2019

The Next Curriculum Council Meeting will be held Monday, March 11, 2019 at 4:00 pm

10. Adjournment