



Derry Township School District CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING

2/8/2021 4:00PM-5:00PM Board of Directors Room

Roll Call

Present: Laura Alexander, Taylor Burkholder, Donna Cronin, Melinda Curran, Kimberly Dilger, Lauren Doyle, Jena Funck, Chelsea Gavin, Hana Gomma, James Grandi, Jessica Intrieri, Greg Knowles, Traci Landry, Guerline Laureore, Sun Mullins, Lindsey Schmidt, Lewis Shaw, Kathy Sicher, Jeffrey Smith, Tricia Steiner, Heidi Stine, Dave Sweigert, Shari Taylor-Stuckey, Erick Valentin, Lisa Wang, Stacy Winslow,

Absent: Anna Gawel, Christine Hicks, Dave Yingst

Attendance Updates:

- John Abel, Omaima Ali, Kathy Marschka.
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1. Call To Order

Minutes

Dr. Winslow called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. Also, Dr. Winslow announced that the agenda will be in a random order so the items for voting will move to the front.

2. Review of Summary Notes

3. Informational

a. Presentation: MS Blended Learning Pilot

[Blended Learning Pilot Presentation](#)

Minutes

Mr. Valentin, MS Principal gave a presentation to create a MS Blended Learning Pilot. The high school has been doing this for years. Teachers and students expressed an interest that the asynchronous learning during this year 2020-2021 has been very successful and they would like to pilot this again next year. This pilot program will be for the 2021-2022 school year and would involve 7th and 8th grade only and about 50 selected students (25 per grade level). These students will be chosen for this pilot from their applications for the program. Students would be in the classroom 4 out of 6 days: 60% Synchronous (face to face) and 40% A-Synchronous. This is not an option for all middle school students. If a student demonstrates academic issues, the student will be pulled out. If a student realizes this is not for them, they too, can opt out and return to Synchronous learning. Students can opt out at the end of any marking period. Executive Functioning skills will be used throughout this pilot. Teachers could call students individually into a Zoom Session if needed.

4. Items for Discussion

a. Election of Board Representative Committee Chair

Minutes

A motion was made by Kathy Sicher to nominate Donna Cronin as Co-Chair of the Curriculum Council and seconded by Dr. Shaw. There were no other nominations. All were in favor of Dr. Cronin as Co-Chair of the committee.

b. Physical Education/Athletics for credits

Minutes

This item for discussion has been tabled and will be revisited in April.

c. Kindergarten Waiver Discussion

Minutes

Ms. Schmidt and Mrs. Funck spoke on Kindergarten Waiver Discussion. Last year there were four students starting the school year on the waiver, and by the end of the first trimester, all four students were in full day Kindergarten. We would like to discontinue the waiver going forward. Some of the obstacles were; all academic work needed to be held in the morning only and the specials were held in the afternoon. This limited the schedule in general having those restrictions for the morning only. Then by the end of the first trimester, we had all students in full time. Looking forward we can have some flexibility to the master schedule.

A motion was made by Kathy Sicher to eliminate the Kindergarten Waiver for the 2021-2022 school year and seconded by Kip Shaw. This will be moved to the full board for approval at the next meeting, February 22, 2021.

5. New Business

a. Course Revision: STEAM Special Grades K-1

Our current STEAM special is offered in grades 2-5. We would like to extend this STEAM special at the K-1 grade levels and take the opportunity re-evaluate the current skills and standards that are addressed through the K-1 library special and to incorporate them into a new K-1 STEAM special that will also integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics seamlessly into the course instruction. The course outline will cover the following topics that will all integrate the 4Cs (communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creation) in meaningful, real-life ways;

1. Coding/Computer Programing
2. Digital Citizenship
3. Design Thinking
4. Growth Mindset

In addition to the above topics, the course will address digital literacy skills and standards that were previously addressed in the K-1 library course.

Minutes

Mrs. Funck presented to the Council a Course Revision Proposal: STEAM Special Grades K-1. A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Donna Cronin. All were in favor. This proposal will be listed as "Old Business" next month for a final read.

STEAM: (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)

b. Course Removal: Elementary Library Grades K-1

We would like to take the opportunity to extend the content and learning in our Elementary STEAM course that is currently provided to students in grades 2-5. The K-1 library curriculum focuses on skills and standards that can be seamlessly integrated through the learning and course content that is currently offered in the Elementary STEAM special. With the elimination of the traditional K-1 library, all students will be able to participate in learning offered through the elementary STEAM special while not missing out on the important skills highlighted in the new library standards.

For example:

The current revised Unit 1 in Kindergarten highlights the national library standards I.D.3, II.D.3, III.D.2, and V.D as well as ISTE Standard 1a.

The American School Library Standard D is "Grow" - each component focuses around seeking knowledge, engaging in sustained inquiry, enacting new understanding through real-world connections, and using reflection to guide decisions. The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standard 1a calls for empowered learners through individual goal setting, leveraging technology to achieve goals, and reflecting on the learning process itself to improve learning solutions (teaching students that learning is often an iterative cycle).

As can be seen by this example, integrating the library curriculum with the STEAM curriculum provides young students with a comprehensive and integrated approach to inquiry and problem-solving grounded in research to form new understandings.

It is imperative to note that library resources will be integral to this work and that students will still have regularly scheduled library visits that include book selection and exchange.

Minutes

Mrs. Funck presented to the Council a Course Removal Proposal: Elementary Library Grades K-1. A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Donna Cronin. All were in favor. This proposal will be listed as "Old Business" next month for a final read.

STEAM: (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)

c. Course Revision: Course Title Change to Digital Literacy 6

The role of computer technology in education continues to evolve. In the past seven years, we have transitioned from teaching students how to use a computer to teaching students how to responsibly access digital content. The title of this course should change in order to accurately reflect its content. The title change will provide students, parents, community members and staff with a better understanding of what this course offers.

Minutes

Mr. Valentin presented to the Council a Course Revision Proposal: Course Title Change to Digital Literacy 6. A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Donna Cronin. All were in favor. This proposal will be listed as "Old Business" next month for a final read.

d. Course Revision: Course Title Change to Digital Literacy 7

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Minutes

Mr. Valentin presented to the Council a Course Revision Proposal: Course Title Change to Digital Literacy 8. A motion was made for a first read by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Donna Cronin. All were in favor. This proposal will be listed as "Old Business" next month for a final read.

6. Old Business

a. Course Addition Proposal - Piano Class

Readmission of Piano Class into EPG for 2021-2022 School year. Presented by: Joe Farrell

This course was removed from the EPG a few years back due to lack of staffing. Joe taught this course for 17 years in the high school. It was a popular class and provides an additional general music course offering at the high school. The premise of the class is designed like a "piano lab" with each student working at his or her pace, depending on their previous piano playing experience. This class is designed for students with little or no experience through students who have been playing for years. This course was beneficial for students who wanted an individual, quality, musical experience without the evening/weekend time commitments of being involved in one of our department's musical ensembles. As we move out of hybrid/virtual instruction,

this course offering also provides students an opportunity to express, learn and reflect about emotional reactions they have to the music they are playing as well as their individual performance practices.

Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Cronin to approve the Course Addition Proposal Piano Class, for a second read and seconded by Kathy Sicher. All were in favor. This recommendation will now be presented to the Board of School Directors at their next meeting for a final vote.

b. Course Revision: Connecting Passion and Purpose (this is a revision of Passion-Driven Research)

Presented by: Barb Clouser

This asynchronous, online course will allow students connect learning to something that they would like to change, create, design, or impact. The Genius Hour model will be employed as students work through the steps of passion, plan, pitch, project, product, and presentation. Students will have the opportunity go deeper, think bigger, and consider how to create long-lasting change.

This course will be fully online through Canvas. Students will schedule progress meetings with the Gifted Support teacher.

One purpose of this course is to create enrichment opportunities for gifted students to receive support during the regular school day. However, this course would be open to all students who would like to earn academic credit while studying a self-selected topic of interest.

Minutes

A motion was made by Kathy Sicher to approve the Course Revision Proposal for a title change to Connecting Passion and Purpose, for a second read and seconded by Donna Cronin. All were in favor. This recommendation will now be presented to the Board of School Directors at their next meeting for a final vote.

7. Public Comment

8. Next Meeting - March 8, 2021

9. Adjournment

Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Cronin to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm