



CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING

03/08/2021 [04:00 PM-05:00 PM] @ Board of Directors Room

CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING

Roll Call

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

Write-ins: John Abel, JoAnn Delaney, Sue Myers, Lindsay Drew, Jaime Bean

Absent: Laura Alexander, Chelsea Gavin, Anna Gawel, Jessica Intrieri, Lindsey Schmidt,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes

The Curriculum Council Meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm

2. REVIEW OF SUMMARY NOTES

3. INFORMATIONAL

a. STATE TESTING UPDATE - PSSA & KEYSTONE EXAMS

Minutes

Dr. Winslow gave the Council an update on the State Testing:

PSSA/Keystone Testing:

Our Keystone testing at the High School will be scheduled during final exams in the Spring. Also, the Civics final exam will need to be given and recorded, as this is the first year this Civics Exam is a requirement for our freshman students. This is the only final exam to be given this year and all other finals will be deferred, instead will give the Keystone Exam during that block of time that we would normally use as finals.

PSSA's

The state has extended the date for PSSAs to be given through the Fall. We have decided, as a district, not to administer the PSSA at the start of the school year. We are, instead, going to use May for the Elementary Exams. We have been given an extension for a time frame and were granted this.

PSSA English, Language, Arts (Grades 3, 4, 5)	May 17, 18, 19
PSSA Math (Grades 3, 4, 5)	May 20, 21
PSSA Science (Gr 4 only)	May 24, 25

Parents may bring their virtual students into the school for participation in this testing. We will be "dinged" for participation from the state, but this will need to be accepted.

We are not requiring families to opt out this year if they do not want to take this exam.

We will also be testing Middle School for PSSA in the summertime. We will be offering two dates, parents can register for a date that works for their schedules.

PSSA English, Language, Arts (Grades 6, 7, 8)	June 22, July 20
PSSA Math (Grades 6, 7, 8)	June 23, July 21
PSSA Science (Gr 8 only)	June 24, July 22

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. COURSE ADDITION: ELEMENTARY HEALTH CLASS

Our current health and physical education special is offered in kindergarten-fifth grade, meeting twice a cycle with two homerooms in the gymnasium at one time. Currently, health takes place during physical education class. We have not had the time to fully teach the subject due to the combined classes and primary focus on physical education. We believe that learning about health from an earlier age will lead to better informed decisions as student matriculate through school. Kindergarten and first grade have a social skills special and will continue to receive health lessons through their two cycle days of physical education. We would like to divide the special so that students in second-fifth grade have health and physical education one cycle day each starting in second grade. This would allow us to focus equally on health and physical education in grades 2-5.

The course outline will focus on the three sides of the health triangle; physical, mental/emotional, and social health. It will also highlight social and emotional learning competencies such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

Minutes

A presentation was given by Ms. Heidi Stine on the addition of Elementary Health Class. This class will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. Currently we offer PE/Health twice a 6 day cycle. We are looking at changing this schedule for grades 2 - 5 we split this next year to reflect one Phys Ed Class per 6 day cycle and one Health Class per 6 day cycle. The students will also still be continuing with their daily 30 minute outside recess for exercise.

Proposed specials for 2021-2022 school year:

Kindergarten-art, music, physical education (2), social skills, STEAM

1st grade-art, music, physical education (2), social skills, STEAM

2nd grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

3rd grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

4th grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

5th grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

Motion

A motion was made for a first read for the course addition: Elementary Health Class by Donna Cronin and seconded by Kathy Sicher. All were in favor of this first read. The curriculum will be available for review in the District Office.

6. OLD 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

A motion was made for a second read for a Course Revision: STEAM Special Grades K-1 by Donna Cronin 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 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

A motion was made for a second read for a Course Removal: Elementary Library Grades K-1 by Donna Cronin 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.

Proposed specials for 2021-2022 school year:

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1st grade-art, music, physical education (2), social skills, STEAM

2nd grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

3rd grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

4th grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

5th grade-art, health, library, music, physical education, STEAM

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

A motion was made to combine all three Course Revision Title Changes to be voted on as a whole by Donna Cronin and seconded by Tricia Steiner. All were in favor.

A motion was made for a second read for a Course Revision: Title Change for Digital Literacy 6, 7, and 8 by Donna Cronin 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.

d. COURSE REVISION: COURSE TITLE CHANGE TO DIGITAL LITERACY 7

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7. PUBLIC COMMENT

8. NEXT MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

9. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes

A motion was made by Kathy Sicher and seconded by Donna Cronin to adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm