

LNSU/LNMUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting
November 13, 2023

5:30 PM Call to order

Members Present: Allen Audette, Tina Lowe, Amy Listenik, Monica Stearns, Stephanie Sweet

Staff Members Present: Denise Maurice, Mary Anderson, Betsy Goodman, Diane Reilly, Bethann Pirie

The principals present will lead the meeting due to Val's absence.

Mary began the meeting with a discussion about elementary reading programs. She explained there have been changes made district wide due to the lack of comprehension skills in some students. In collaboration with Gail Moskowitz, our Literacy Consultant, the team looked at different programs to ensure the best choice for our students. Wiley Blevins Phonics Program is engaging for students, particularly in K-3, with interesting books that students can comprehend and use their phonics skills to "decode". It is proving more effective than past phonics programs. Mary explained schools are moving away from traditional memorization style programs because of the lack of comprehension.

Betsy spoke to the group about Report Cards. She explained that district wide we have adopted the same practices to ensure an easier transition for our students, families, and faculty to middle school. We currently use PowerSchool which is a data-collection platform as well as an information reporting tool. Academics and Transferable Skills are coded 1-4 instead of just being labeled Consistent or Not Consistent. Also, parents can see if a grade is a result of individual work or work done in groups. Group work is labeled with a "G". If a student needs special accommodations to reach a particular score, it will be labeled with an asterisk.

Bethann and Denise spoke to the group about Proficiency-Based Learning. This is used K-12. Val Sullivan has done great work for our district in this regard. Bethann explained the team is looking into making certain standards course specific. She also talked briefly about formatting report cards based on what families want to see, in particular, grades and comments from teachers. Denise talked a bit about Schoology and how the program makes it easier for teachers to grade things since proficiency is built into it. She explained that Schoology and PowerSchool work together for the most part. Bethann added that PowerSchool is more of a data manager and Schoology is more of the day-to-day "online classroom". The two explained the reporting differences between middle and high school. Middle school reports with a 4-Quarter system while the high school uses Quarters and Semesters. The group had a short discussion about how this is working. All agreed the outcomes have been mostly positive and for the most part running smoothly.

Allen reminded the group we needed to pick a committee leader and minute taker. Allen will stay on as our Chair and Tina will continue to take minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Tina Lowe