



**Regional School District 17
Board of Education
Curriculum Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Chair: Kathy Zandi**

A meeting of the Regional School District 17 Curriculum Subcommittee was held on January 14, 2025, in the Central Office Board Room.

Subcommittee Members Present: Kathy Zandi, Lisa Connelly, Heather Pach

Subcommittee Members Absent: Suzanne Sack

Other Attendees: Curriculum Coordinators Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, HKMS Principal Dorothy Ventura, HKMS Assistant Principal Heather Persson

Call to Order/Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Kathy Zandi.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Lisa Connelly **MOVED** and Heather Pach **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

HKMS Updates

Principal Dorothy Ventura and Assistant Principal Heather Persson presented the 2024-25 HKMS schedule and how it increases equity for all students. The block scheduling allows for team meetings, student opportunities for extra help, and push-in and pull-out during flex periods. This prevents the need for students to miss class time to receive academic support. Team planning time is now aligned and all teachers are kept within one grade level.

Ms. Ventura and Ms. Persson also discussed changes in the curriculum, including the addition of Module 4 in ELA, the elimination of Accelerated Math in grade 6, an opportunity for families to make a choice in grade 7, and the 30/30 schedule for Social Studies and Science. The changes in math have allowed students to take ownership of their trajectory and appear to be increasing the number of students following the more challenging course of study. The current scheduling of science and social studies allows teachers more flexibility in programming.

The subcommittee had a rich conversation about the changes at HKMS and the potential for increased positive outcomes.

Student Attendance

Heather Rigatti and Jenn Beermuender presented the mid-year district-wide data on attendance. They discussed the improvements in truancy risk numbers over the last school year as well as comparisons of chronically absent students. The committee discussed the various reasons for absence and the tiered intervention strategies in the District to address chronic absenteeism.

The following steps are being taken to address chronic absenteeism:

- RSD17 purchased and provided training for the Attendance Monitor software plug-in for PowerSchool. This tool has proven to be highly effective at allowing principals and secretaries to gather relevant data at various thresholds.
- Meeting with a school attendance team monthly to review attendance
- Sending communication home to all families about being on time and the importance of attending school for positive academic and social outcomes
- Communicating directly with families who have attendance concerns via letters sent home.
- Parent/student conferences for students who have attendance concerns
- Utilize the grant-funded social worker to support students and families

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.