Madison Public Schools Board of Education
Curriculum and Student Development Committee
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
5:30pm
Minutes of Meeting

Members present: Steven Pynn, Cathy Miller, MaryAnn Connelly
Also present: Seth Klaskin, Dr. Cooke, Gail Dahling-Hench

1. Grade 4/5 Integrated Unit Design
   Presenter: Gail Dahling-Hench, Teacher Leaders.

This was an informational presentation to update the Board on the current effort to integrate Social Studies and ELA for the fourth and fifth grade curriculum. Utilizing the state standards for social studies and the standards for ELA units are being developed that utilize biographies of notable historical figures and regional themes to implement the integrated approach. There was much discussion from board members in support of the integrated approach to teaching and learning while recognizing the challenge of covering the extensive material in both domains.

2. After-School Extension Activities.
   Presenter: Gail Dahling-Hench

This presentation was at the request of the board to update on the current and projected after-school clubs and activities that are offered. An extensive list was provided with the framework of responsibility and funding of these programs. The K-5 programs are run entirely by the PTO and funded by them. Session run from 60 to 90 minutes and include a multitude of topics such as Musical Theatre, Puppet Making, LEGO, Basketball, Tech Wizards and Inspired Art.

The 6-12 programs are district offered opportunities and are funded by the district through stipends and tuition payments. Scholarships are available so that no student is denied access due to funds. Again the offerings are extensive and include robotics, art courses sport activities cooking, cursive writing and many more. Student interest and passion guides the selection of the clubs.

3. CSDE Assessment Audit.
   Presenter: Gail Dahling-Hench

Section 1 of Public Act 24-93 requires the Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive audit of assessments that are administered to students by public school districts. The stated goal of this audit is to eliminate redundant assessments, discourage test preparation, reduce testing time, and maximize assessments for classroom teachers.

Madison's model of instruction and curriculum development is supported by close monitoring of student progress and subsequent adjustments to allow all students to be successful and to intervene early if students are struggling. Consequently there are a number of formative assessments to monitor progress. This is not universally common among public schools. A comprehensive report was compiled for presentation to the CSDE listing all of the assessments the district currently utilizes and the rationale. How his will be used by the CSDE remains unclear.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm