



Curriculum Council Meeting – February 9, 2015

Agenda for: Curriculum Council Meeting

Roll Call

Members in attendance were: Hank Donahue, Heidi Eby, Timothy Fields, Kim Kulina, Missy Kunder, Dale Reimann, Carol Schneidereit, Brian Shiflett, Kathy Sicher, Martha Strickland, Mary Turner, Kimberly Vondran and Stacy Winslow

Members not in attendance were: Chris Barrett, Jackie Castleman, Anna Gawel, Thomas Keefer, Thomas Kramer, Traci Landry, Renee Owens, Kelly Pierce, Lisa Sviben Miller, Erick Valentin and David Yingst

Staff/Public in attendance were: Petula, Jason Sheehan, Maryellen

1. Call To Order

Minutes: The Curriculum Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Winslow at 4:06 pm

2. Appoint New Chair

Minutes: Brian Shiflett nominated Dr. Hank Donahue as chairperson of the Curriculum Council, motion was seconded by Heidi Eby. Vote was unanimous in favor of Dr. Donahue remaining as chairperson.

3. Review of Summary Notes

Minutes: A motion to accept the summary minutes from the January 5, 2015 Curriculum Council was made by Heidi Eby and seconded by Brian Shiflett. Minutes were approved. There were no corrections or additions.

4. Informational

4.1 PA Academic Review

The PA Academic Review site closed on January 15, 2015. A posting on the site says that the feedback will be aggregated and posted no later than January 31, 2015.

[PA Academic Review Site](#)

Minutes: Dr. Winslow reviewed informational items, Please click on the link above to view the PA Academic Review site. This site gave PA residents particular parents and educators the opportunity to go onto the site and comment on eligible content.

4.2 Project Based Assessments Update

Minutes: Brief update on Project Based Assessments. These are the assessments that students would take if they are not proficient on the Keystone Exams. It details who is eligible for Project Based Assessments, how the supplemental instruction can work, what

the timeline is, how to get in touch if you have any questions, and what the assessments look like.

4.3 Professional Learning Committee

Minutes: Currently we have an Act 48 committee that meets twice a year. We created a subcommittee to help direct the professional learning of the district. This subcommittee meets once a month. Currently the work is focused around the upcoming Conference Day and Summer Workshops.

5. Old Business

Notes: none

6. New Business

6.1 Goals for Curriculum Council

Minutes:

Dr. Donahue and Dr. Winslow met to discuss goals for the Curriculum Council. Dr. Donahue mentioned that a board member inquired about one of our goals be to focus on an analysis of high school grading by department grading standardizations. Dr. Winslow felt that this would not be in our purview of the Curriculum Council but possibly the Act 48 Committee. This is an important issue and it is on the radar for the high school for review. Brian Shiflett asked if citizens can give their input and opinions. Dr. Winslow mentioned this is one of Peter Ebert's goals this year to begin looking at some of those aspects of working with grading and consistency. A committee of stakeholders will need to be pulled together, appropriate research and professional learning, debate - approximately a 3-year plan to have all pieces in place.

These goals are posted as an attachment to this agenda. These goals were presented as a recommendation. Please read over the goals and discuss. Mr. Shiflett questions if it makes sense for the next year or to just include what the scope and sequence for curriculum review will be for the various subject areas and levels. Dr. Winslow was in agreement. Formal Cycle for Curriculum Review is recommended to be added to the goals. Question was asked if there is anything in the Comprehensive Strategic Plan that drives our work for specific actions steps? Yes, the Act 48 piece is very much a part of the Comprehensive Plan. Both the Act 48 piece with the professional learning and the transition to Common Core are pieces of the Comprehensive Plan. These are all encompassing pieces that we are working on as a full district. Not building-specific but district wide.

Brian Shiflett suggested placing some positive accomplishments in the goals.

6.2 German Proposal

Minutes:

Dr. Reimann and Mrs. Clouser presented a proposal to the Council to bring German I and subsequent courses back into rotation at the High School. Attached you will find the PowerPoint which was presented as well as the proposal. Proposed will be two levels of German in rotation. Currently we have Level 5 and AP in the rotation. Rational - Student inquiry as to what is to become of German? Surveyed students, German Club currently enrolls 41 students. 93 students in grades 8, 9, and 10 mentioned in the survey they would be interested in German next year.

Currently we will finish German AP then begin a two level rotation of German I and II each school year. Drawbacks, if you choose not to take the German I in freshman year, it will not be available again. Currently we have a strong German teacher on staff, students enjoy her teaching, and this teacher is willing to teach German I and II. This course will appear on the selection card with an asterisk stating it is pending approval.

Question - will this ever be offered at the same time all four levels? Currently that is correct. Question was asked if the 6th and 7th graders were surveyed? Currently only 8th, 9th and 10th grades were surveyed due to scheduling for next year. Also, currently looking at different vendors for offering online German.

Question - will this cause problems with parents knowing that their child cannot take German because it is not in the rotation of the student. Answer, this is definitely a risk. If you are not slated as an incoming freshman in the next two years, then that offering is not available to you. You could request it, and there may be an opening for an older student.

Question - did you consider what it would cost to bring German back full time? is the reason cost? Dr. Reimann mentioned that this would be a major budgetary issue.

Question - is it possible in a given year in the future if you have people with the first two years of this level, and next year there are no students interested in IV, can you go back to German I? Yes that would be conceivable.

Question - without German V and AP what would be the incentive? Colleges typically want three years of a language. Mrs. Clouser mentioned she thinks there will be an incentive.

Question - Mr. Shifflett asked if you matriculating into a college and you wanted to continue to take German, is there a standard for German? how does that work? Answer - the college will test the students themselves.

Mr. Shifflett mentioned an online course possibly German IV? is this something that is an option? Biggest concern is finding an instructional program that will be suitable for DTSD. Developing our own course is an option but in the future. If you would start with German IV you still would have three years to create an online course.

Question - are the numbers in the survey from 8th graders, are they purely student interest not background of classes? yes.

Question - looking at enrollments down the line, do you see any pressure from those groups currently in middle school that would require you to schedule another World Culture section that would bump the German I section? Yes, current 6th grade is larger than any section in the district.

Motion to accept the German Proposal for a first read was made by Dr. Donahue and seconded by Mrs. Eby. All were in favor of accepting the German Proposal as a first read and we will look at this again next month.

7. Public Comment

Minutes:

Dr. Jason Petula, parent of two children in the district commented on his disappointment in the science curriculum in the elementary level. He was concerned that he purchased a home in the district and only to find out his children are not going to realize high quality science curriculum. He sees this as a systemic problem and is willing to offer anything he can bring to table to hopefully improve this for the future. Children should have adequate science background - it is too big of a gap for the type of jobs that kids will need for their future. He has seen a positive improvement in his fourth graders science curriculum. He feels the curriculum on the website is false advertisement.

Dr. Winslow commented that when Dr. Petula reached out to her - that this is something of a concern of hers. We are doing a disservice to the elementary science and social studies. 1st, 2nd grades are trying to integrate Science in Reading Street. We do need to look at the curriculum.

Kim Vondran Second Grade teacher commented that there are three science units taught during the school year and is part of the curriculum, and she, too, would like to see this extended also in kindergarten and first grade.

Mrs. Maryellen Sheehan referred to the goals of the committee. Mrs. Sheehan read the Board Operating Guideline 005-02 to Curriculum Council - her concern was why is the grading decided to not be a focus with this committee? Dr. Winslow said this council can recommend to the Act 48 Committee any concerns for grading and ask them to review the recommendation.

8. Next Meeting

March 2, 2015

Notes: The next meeting of Curriculum Council will be held on March 2, 2015

9. Adjournment

Minutes: A motion to adjourned was made by Dr. Donahue, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm