

## **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

April 18, 2018 8:15 a.m.

Central Office Conference Room

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m.

#### Present Committee Members:

Sara Spaulding (Chairperson), Dan McNeill (by phone), Ellen Uzenoff

#### Present Administration:

Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Lisa Deorio, WHS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Mercedes Fernandes, Curriculum Instructional Leader, K-12 World Language

#### Members of the Public:

Gina Albert

### **2. Information on the Seal of Biliteracy**

Discussion:

- The State of Connecticut has endorsed a State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more languages, including American Sign Language.
- The associated costs for the District would be with respect to external assessments. The cost per language exam is from \$17 to \$20; with the estimated total cost per year approximately \$2,500.
- Spring semester of junior year would be the best time for most students to take the assessment; however, exceptions could be made for seniors.
- The examination is a maximum of two hours and can be taken in parts.
- In order to help mitigate the stress of adding another exam in junior year, an option of possibly taking the State exam in place of the high school final exam was discussed.
- Next steps include further research on the assessments to be employed and how they would be implemented at appropriate times during junior or senior year.

### **3. Information regarding middle school world language programs in DRG A**

Discussion:

- Currently, Weston is the only district in DRG A that does not offer language every day in grade 6 of middle school.
- The administration would like to continue to explore making French and Spanish a daily subject as part of a budget proposal for year FY 2020. The cost would be approximately 0.7 FTE.

#### **4. Discussion of homework practices**

Discussion:

- A reference document outlining the homework practices for grades K-12 was devised last year.
- Principals have been strongly monitoring these practices and making clear that teachers should follow this policy with consistency across grade levels.
- At the high school level, most of the reported difficulties regarding homework load tend to come from those who override the recommended courses/course load.
- At the elementary level, homework is individualized but District policy language is currently outdated and does not reflect individualized practice.
- Teachers at the K-5 level communicate that assignments should only take ‘x’ amount of minutes and then the student should stop. As this practice helps inform teachers on individualized practice, this communication may need to be reinforced with parents throughout the year.
- The administration will review the homework policy during the 2018-19 school year, obtaining feedback from stakeholders. This review may result in changes to the District’s homework policy.

#### **5. Information regarding the recent Tri-State visit for Writing Across the Disciplines**

Discussion:

- Dr. Craw highlighted the recent Tri-State Consortium visit, which was overall very successful.
- He noted several commendations and recommendations, which will be detailed in the full report in June.

#### **6. Update on WMS proposed master schedule**

Discussion:

- Mr. Doak attended teacher team meetings and made some slight modifications to the proposal:
  - Revisions were made so that PFAs were not blocked together. They are spaced so that they are offered in the morning and afternoon.
  - The schedule was reworked so that each block is 43 (instead of the proposed 42) minutes.
  - The extension block was revised to be 40 minutes, which took the extra five minutes off of weekly supervisory duty, keeping it within WTA contract parameters.
- A mock schedule was run in PowerSchool, and the majority of the students were able to get the full complement of PFAs.

#### **7. Approval of March 2018 minutes**

**Motion Passed:** passed with a motion by Sara Spaulding and a second by Ellen Uzenoff.

**3 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

## **8. Other curricular issues**

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
June Curiano  
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent