

## **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

September 26, 2018 8:15 a.m.

Central Office Conference Room

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

Meeting was called to order at 8:23 a.m.

#### Present Committee Members:

Sara Spaulding (Chairperson), Dan McNeill

#### Present Administration:

William McKersie, Superintendent; Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Michael Rizzo, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Lisa Deorio, WHS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Carolyn Vinton, K-5 Math and Science CIL

#### Members of the Public:

Gina Albert

### **2. Discussion of updates to WIS enrichment programming**

Discussion:

- Rudd Anderson, WIS Project Challenge teacher, received training on Math in Focus in preparation for this year.
- The goal of using a push-in model is to enable more students to receive enrichment.
- Mr. Anderson will work closely with teachers to deliver enrichment on a biweekly basis to all classrooms, enabling enrichment to be more fluid than in past practice.
- Mrs. Falber emphasized that the purpose of the new delivery approach to enrichment was to deepen and broaden understanding of math content. It is not intended as math acceleration.
- This year the focus will be on math; there will be no pull-out writing enrichment provided by the Project Challenge teacher. Classroom teachers will provide differentiation in writing through the Writers Workshop approach.

### **3. Information regarding WIS fifth grade teaming model**

Discussion:

- This year WIS implemented a two-teacher team model whereby one teacher teaches a two-hour math/science block, while their teammate teaches a two-hour reading/writing block and then students switch classes. (The teachers will teach social studies to their own classes.)
- The two-hour block will allow more integration of subjects.
- The need to implement new science units into the schedule was the impetus for this approach to teaming.
- The teacher teams allow for improved planning time and less prep time per subject. This is crucial due to significant content level preparation in fifth grade.

#### **4. Review of 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment and School Day SAT results**

Discussion:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment
  - Individual Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) student reports will go out on September 28, except for eighth grade results.
  - Eighth grade results are being withheld because one math item that needs to be excluded from students' scores. As a result, Individual Student Reports for current Grade 9 students need to be reprinted and will be sent by the end of October.
  - In sixth grade math there was an anomaly. There has been a 24% decrease over the past three years in their performance—an average of an eight-point dip per year. Several factors have been ruled out—gender, high needs, attendance.
  - Sixth grade teachers and administration have met to look at this anomaly and how to address it.
  - Going forward, teachers will embed SBA type questions into the math curriculum, a practice that proved to be quite effective for grade eight in the previous school year.
  - It should be noted that this practice is not focused on test prep, but rather weaving the types of questions into the curricular units.
- School Day SAT results
  - Weston's School Day SAT results are very strong when compared to the state and DRG A reference group. However, when Weston's scores are compared to the top 10 performing districts, there is a very narrow band and the difference is very small.
  - This year 17% of Weston students cancelled their scores.

#### **5. Update on Honors Science Research Program**

Discussion:

- The Honors Science Research Program is currently up and running as planned.

#### **6. Update on WHS Honors Physics C: E & M and Honors Multivariable Calculus**

Discussion:

- These two courses were added to the WHS Program of Studies in recent years to address the needs of one or two students who wanted to extend beyond our math and physics pathways.
- Some challenges are being realized with the multivariable calculus (MVC) course in that one teacher is splitting her time between teaching one student MVC for half of the cycle and teaching CASE for the other half. As a result, the teacher is unable to service students in need of math support while she is working with the MVC student.
- The arrangement for Honors Physics C – E & M has become increasingly complex to manage. The teacher is spending a considerable amount of time providing direct instruction outside of his full-time teaching load, which is currently in negotiation.
- In summary, the administration is finding that these arrangements are not an efficient use of resources and are creating contractual challenges with the teachers' union. These individualized student situations will need to be addressed differently going forward as we cannot efficiently run courses for one or two students.

- The committee discussed exploring the possibility of offering online courses to address these types of situations and suggested further discussion on whether an online course could receive a grade/credit.

## **7. Information on WHS trip to France**

Discussion:

- Last year Weston did not have enough students in combination with Joel Barlow HS to run the program.
- The district should know soon if there is enough interest this year to move forward with the trip.
- This is the same trip as put forth last year where the students stay with a host family for part of the trip.
- Students will miss four days of school, and the cost is just under \$2,500.
- This item will be put on the Board agenda if there are enough students who sign up.

## **8. Approval of June 2018 minutes**

**Motion Passed:** passed with a motion by Sara Spaulding and a second by Dan McNeill.  
**2 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

## **9. Other curricular issues**

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano  
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent