

## **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

June 12, 2019 8:15 a.m.

Central Office Conference Room

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

#### Present Committee Members:

Dan McNeill (Chairperson), Ellen Uzenoff, Taffy Miller

#### Present Administration:

Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Deorio, WHS Principal; Jamie Charles, 6-12 Science and Technology CIL; Liz Morris, K-12 Performing Arts CIL; Mercedes Fernandes, K-12 World Language CIL

### **2. Presentation of proposed textbook adoptions**

Discussion:

- WMS Science
  - Mrs. Charles gave an overview of the main units of study for grades 6-8 and discussed the rationale behind the decision to use the Amplify platform and the Gizmos platform for teaching the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
  - Mrs. Charles explained the process by which the middle school science teachers piloted and explored resources that best matched the NGSS curriculum.
- WHS AP Music Theory
  - Ms. Morris noted that the text chosen is also the standard text used in most high schools in our DRG and high schools across the nation.
  - This text is used in college courses and will provide continuity between high school and collegiate curricula.
  - The chosen text comes with a physical workbook as well as a six-year subscription to online supplemental resources.

### **3. Information on WHS summer 2020 trip to Spain**

Discussion:

- Mrs. Fernandes outlined the proposed two-week trip to Spain describing the language immersion opportunities and cultural experiences.
- Committee members expressed some concern regarding the timing of the trip and the possibility of the trip date landing on a final exam date if there were an extended school year.
- Mrs. Deorio explained that accommodations could be arranged if the proposed departure were on an exam date, especially since graduating seniors will not be allowed to attend this trip.

#### **4. Update and report on K-12 Homework Practices Study**

Discussion:

- Dr. Craw gave an overview of the report findings and key takeaway points.
  - In general, students feel that homework is an opportunity to practice skills learned in class.
  - Students feel that homework that gives an opportunity to be creative is more meaningful than assignments that they consider busywork, such as regurgitating facts.
  - Students feel that homework is counterproductive if they do not get feedback on it.
  - Students and teachers prefer that homework be graded for completion and not quality.
  - Students would like to see more communication between teachers so that assignments can be more spread out rather than no assignments one day and many assignments on another day.
- Committee members discussed scaffolding of student expectations with respect to homework. For example, students in eighth grade should not be expected to have a ninth grade homework experience.
- After the faculty has had a chance to review the report findings, a draft of recommendations for homework regulations will be brought back to the Committee in the fall.

#### **5. Approval of April and May 2019 minutes**

**Motion Passed:** passed with a motion by Ellen Uzenoff and a second by Taffy Miller.

**3 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

#### **6. Other curricular issues**

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent