

Curriculum Committee Meeting

December 19, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Central Office Conference Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present Committee Members:

Taffy Miller (Chairperson), Anthony Pesco (by phone)

Present Administration:

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent; Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Wolak, WHS Principal; Dan Doak WMS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Carolyn Vinton, K-5 Math and Science CIL; Nicholas Torres, 6-8 Social Studies CIL

Members of the Public:

Hillary Koyner, Mary Welsch-Lehmann

2. WHS New Course Proposals for 2020-21

Discussion:

- AP Human Geography
 - This course presents an opportunity for students interested in the study of geography, sociology, urban planning, and patterns of human settlement.
 - It is a rigorous AP course and provides a progression of elective that was missing for students studying sociology.
 - There has been dwindling enrollment in AP European History at WHS. This course will have a greater breadth of content and will better align with the District's mission regarding global perspectives.
- Advanced Broadcast and Sports Journalism
 - Sports Journalism and Broadcasting was introduced this year as a semester course. It became very popular and enrollment in both sections are currently full.
 - Students requested an advanced course to further their skills.
 - This course will be a year-long project-based course and will run concurrently during the same period as the non-advanced course; no additional FTE is required.

3. Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI)—Plan for the Continuous Improvement of Reading and Math Performance

Discussion:

- Dr. Craw explained that in the District there is a need to bolster reading and math performance. Recently, teachers and administration have conducted data analysis in these areas to identify gaps in student achievement.

- At the K-5 level the District will bolster math interventions by implementing a dedicated math CIL for K-2. Strong reading interventions are already in place at the K-2 level.
- At the middle school, the administration is considering creating an academic center to improve performance in reading and math where general education students receive tier 2 and tier 3 SRBI support.
- Currently, WMS has a reading specialist, but there is not enough time to support the demand of students who need those services.
- To bolster SRBI, WMS would like to add an additional 0.8 FTE for reading and 0.4 FTE for math interventions.
- The proposed enhancements are a K-12 approach to address gaps in throughout the system.
- Next steps are to continue to discuss the staffing models and present a budget.

4. Planning for Renewal of Electronic Subscriptions to Support the Curriculum

Discussion:

Ms. Vinton presented a proposal for grade 5 Math in Focus renewal.

- Grade 5 Math in Focus digital subscription is up for renewal in 2020-21. The 2013 edition in current use is only available in one-year subscriptions at a higher cost.
- The 2020 edition is a six-year renewal, which has considerable improvements and enhancements and works out to be less expensive over time. The consumable products (workbooks) are included rather than a separate expense.
- With the new platform, there are improved teacher tools, student resources, and online assessments with data and reporting for progress monitoring.
- The new program is better aligned with Common Core and is highly supported by teachers in neighboring districts.

5. Update on School Start/End Time Study as it pertains to Curriculum and Instruction

Discussion:

- Ms. Wolak presented on some of the different scheduling options for WHS and emphasized that instructional time was of critical importance in drawing up these schedules.
- Mr. Doak presented on options for the middle school. Instructional time is a concern and he would not like to see any significant decreases in teaching blocks. Instructional time might be creatively addressed through ELT and PFA blocks.
- At the K-5 level, the day is more fluid as there is no bell schedule. Mrs. Falber and Mrs. Kaddis had met previously to discuss how they might make adjustments in the event of the District opting for a 6-hour and 30 minute school day and commented that this option might help to mitigate some of the concerns of a late in the day drop off for young students.
- The Committee also discussed some of the issues surrounding a flipped schedule.
- Ms. Miller expressed her appreciation for the in-depth look that the School Start/End Time proposals provide.

6. Approval of November 2019 Minutes

Motion Passed: passed with a motion by Anthony Pesco and a second by Taffy Miller.
2 Yeas - 0 Nays.

7. Other curricular issues

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent