

Curriculum Committee Agenda

September 1, 2022

8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen	Dan Ondich
Carla Anderson-Diekmann	Amee Wittbrodt
Darren Sonenstahl	Matthew Schempp
Suzy Bordeau	Erin Winchell
Bonnie Jude	Mandy Kasowicz
Brenda Ritter	Cayla Rother
Gabra Lokken	Carla Ahrenstroff

BlueSky Charter School Vision:

BlueSky is defining education for the 21st century by creating an individualized, dynamic education for all students. We are committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes and relationships.

BlueSky Charter School Mission:

Bringing quality online education and diverse learners together.

Curriculum Committee Primary Objective: The primary objective of the Curriculum Development Committee is to review and recommend to the BlueSky Charter School Board of Directors on matters pertaining to the content of the academic program, course materials, and method of delivery. This includes, but is not limited to, the review and selection of curriculum and educational materials, review of all class syllabi, common course outlines and learning objectives for use in the program.

Curriculum Vision:

Through high quality curriculum and instructional practices BlueSky will do the following:

- 1. implement standards-based and data-driven practices*
- 2. embed RTI over the next three to five years*
- 3. foster academic and testing skills among students*
- 4. provide College and Career Readiness resources to support student success and learning to ensure opportunities post high school*
- 5. empower teachers to tailor instruction that meets the needs of individual students*
- 6. develop consistent course design and format that ensures content accessibility for all students; and*
- 7. establish a schedule that offers both flexible and structured options for students*

FY23 Annual Focus Areas (TBD):

****FY22 focus areas below**

1. Provide training on best practices to create rigorous, engaging synchronous and asynchronous lessons.
2. Provide training and support for implementing new instructional strategies to improve student engagement and academic outcomes.
3. Continued implementation of compassionate school practices through the implementation of Yale's RULER (SEL) program.
4. Review the demand for rigorous programming options including articulation agreements, AP, IB and college in the classroom.

STANDING BUSINESS:

1. [Course revision proposals](#) ([request form](#))
 - a. No new proposals or requests

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Board Annual Meeting Follow Up
 - a. Discuss number of assignments per course and how long each assignment takes (FY22)
 - i. Focus of the Instructional Designer to make these consistent across classes
 1. Current suggestion has been to have between 50-70 assignments
 2. Each semester class should take an average student about 86 hours (this could be a basis for the number of assignments)
 3. In the past there has been pushback about setting a strict max/min number of assignments
 4. It is critical that we cover all assigned academic standards
 5. Some staff believe short assignments are better/more important than less assignments that are bigger
 6. Some current practices are connected to how we modify/accommodate curriculum
 7. GP classes are impacted more
 8. Next Steps
 - a. Clarify expectation and why (Brenda, Dan, Kim, Matthew, Mandy)
 - b. Provide training on how to manage going forward
 - c. Instructional Designer; develop processes to review curriculum and begin making changes to assignment numbers and develop consistency among courses (same number of assignments and same length of time for each)
 - b. Discuss the potential for having quarters in high school to allow for students to not get overwhelmed with too many assignments (FY22)
 - i. Pilot in progress for 9th grade GP
 - c. Common course survey
 - i. Need to establish purpose - learn about course strength/weaknesses, learn about the teacher, improve instruction, etc.
 - ii. Need to establish best practice
 - iii. Need to discuss more
 3. Independent Project Course Expansion

- a. Review: these courses are for students with needs for enrichment or for students who have needed multiple attempts to pass a course and provides a different pathway for earning the credit
 - b. We currently have Independent Art Project and Independent Language Art Project; Music lessons is similar to these programs.
 - c. Business: could be used as an option for students who already have a business, may incorporate an experiential learning component
 - d. Members had positive comments about meeting students where they are at and having an innovative option
 - e. Concerns were expressed about the criteria for enrollment in our “Independent” courses; It was noted that we get many requests for our Independent Art Project courses that don’t meet the enrollment requirements and we discussed if they need to be published on our website/course catalog
 - f. Meeting with students would need to be a requirement but would also need to be a consideration for how many students can be enrolled
 - g. Other subject areas were discussed; The potential exists to do this in all content areas and we could leverage an innovative program license to perhaps have only one or two teachers
 - h. The committee recommendation is to get a business option ready during next year and explore how this would look in other content areas during the 2022-23 school year
4. [NCAA](#)
- a. World (Foreign) language approval was requested by a parent. We currently have other courses to meet the requirements for Division I, but since foreign language is also an entrance requirement it makes sense to add it to our approvals
 - b. We also need to update Earth & Space Science’s approval due to the new curriculum
 - c. Other English, math, natural/physical science, social science approvals can be submitted at the same time; There were some concerns about how much time it would take teachers if they had to meet with a lot of students needing courses for NCAA requirements because of the Group Pace requirement by NCAA
 - d. Recommendation is for teams to discuss and bring this to the department leads
5. Heavy Equipment Program
- a. <https://local49.org/high-schoolers-explore-heavy-equipment-operation-enrolling-now/>
 - b. Looks like an interesting program but would be difficult to build our own program
 - c. One option would be to partner with colleges that have programs and make it clear that we can have tuition agreements or PSEO options
 - d. Carla shared that we can check student interest in MCIS
6. 2022-23 Curriculum Priorities
- a. All of the annual goals were reviewed and the committee discussed what we didn’t cover or complete this year? There are more opportunities for asynchronous training; The SEL Committee should provide guidance on where to go with RULER. We could also look at continuing work on rigorous programming.
 - b. We may also want to review our curriculum vision for this committee since it has been a number of years since we have made revisions; Adding diversity, equity, and inclusion would be beneficial

OLD BUSINESS:

- 3. 5th Grade

- a. Proposal is to move forward with developing 5th grade for the 2023-24 school year. Would dedicate a 0.5 FTE to the program with the expectation to complete half of the curriculum.
 - b. The instructional designers would support the work and complete the second half of the curriculum over the summer and in the fall.
 - c. Discussed electives - could we give more choice options with this? Potentially. Also discussed how this could impact the 7th and 8th grade options.
 - d. One concern is the current staffing model for middle school; need to figure out our MS staffing model before we move forward with this
 - e. Committee was okay with moving forward with the proposal to the finance committee
- 4. Social Media Marketing Update
 - a. Dakota County Perkins Consortium has not committed to grant funds for the curriculum
 - b. Will need to coordinate with the teacher to determine if we will create the curriculum in house
- 5. CTE Leadership Opportunities
 - a. Will review at the next meeting
- 6. Special Education Update
 - a. No update this meeting
- 7. Compassionate School Update
 - a. No update this meeting
- 8. Budget Review
 - a. No update this meeting