



# Curriculum Committee Agenda

**October 6, 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
	Kim Pike

## **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 (Proposed Rough Draft):**

1. Establish a best practice expectation for the number of learning experiences a course should have along with a suggested length range for each learning experience to provide a consistent and uniform delivery of curriculum.
2. Provide training and support for implementing new instructional strategies to improve student engagement and academic outcomes for asynchronous learning experiences.
3. Establish and implement a common end of course student survey that is purposeful and used to improve student outcomes.
4. Review and update the Curriculum Committee vision to incorporate accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **STANDING BUSINESS:**

1. [Course revision proposals \(request form\)](#)
  - a. RCP - was already on the schedule; new MCIS won't be available until the fall of 2024; will need to coordinate next year with ID; This year will focus on planning
  - b. New Student Orientation and Supplemental New Student Orientation; can begin planning this year but will need to wait until the summer so system updates are in place; will be reviewing what assignments work or don't work

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

2. Review and finalize proposed FY23 annual focus areas
  - a. Discussed use of 'learning experience' to get committee input if we want to use that language in the focus areas
    - i. The purpose of using learning experiences was to more broadly encompass all the elements of learning beyond just the graded assignments in a course so it's a philosophical shift
    - ii. Wanted to stress the focus is not assignment completion
  - b. Made some revisions to focus area 1 to clarify the intent is to provide a consistent and uniform delivery of curriculum; discussed that this topic has overarching impacts because of how we do attendance; members wanted to note that this would be for future curriculum projects and updates and not retroactive requiring immediate updates though some courses may be identified as needing a full curriculum review sooner than others
  - c. Discussed that we are building on the two year plan for focus area 2 (professional development); would need to build this into the existing professional development calendar; suggested also modeling this for other professional development; also discussed that bringing in John Spencer for two workshops aligns to this focus area
  - d. The committee discussed the purpose of the end of course survey (focus area 3) and clarified that the board wanted to gain information on curriculum and instruction and the intent was not to use it as a form of teacher evaluation; discussed that we would need to clarify the use and access of personal staff information by administration as part of this process
  - e. Removed: "Continued implementation of compassionate school practices through the implementation of Yale's RULER (SEL) program."
  - f. Discussed that the last time our vision was updated was approximately nine years ago and that some goals are outdated; also discussed that we need to better align to district and state equity initiatives

3. Perkins Consortium Update
  - a. May be last year for MCIS funds
  - b. Last year for Virtual Job Shadow
    - i. Discussed what classes currently use these systems. Career Success and RCP use these. Could be other courses but we need to explore.
    - ii. Discussed options to review other vendors.
  - c. Future of our membership?
    - i. There is new leadership of the consortium and they are openly challenging if BlueSky, as an online school, can receive Perkins funding; they have reached out to MDE to 'investigate' but no finding has been reported back; Dan contacted Jeff Plaman at MDE to express concerns in case we need to push back on a potential decision that negatively impacts BlueSky
    - ii. We discussed the impact of leaving the consortium; it appears that we do not need to be a member for any of our programs but will need to confirm; financially we do not get staff salaries reimbursed like traditional districts and we only get grant funds which currently amount to \$5000-8000 annually; more discussion will take place after we gain more information on MDE's decision
4. Department of Labor and Industry Grant
  - a. Youth skills training program
    - i. Partnerships between high schools, employers and community organizations.
    - ii. Industry-related classroom instruction.
    - iii. Safety training and industry-recognized credentials.
    - iv. High-growth, in-demand and living-wage industries.
    - v. Safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experience for high school students.
  - b. Grants of up to \$100,000 for implementation and coordination of YST programs
    - i. October 17th through November 4th - Letters of intent
    - ii. November 7th through December 2nd - Grant applications are accepted
  - c. Gabra shared she had worked on a similar project to implement CNA and trucking program. Challenge is how we would do this state wide. Recommendation would be new program exploration.
  - d. Discussed how we previously had a CNA program and how we could build on what we have done before by partnering with colleges around the state; concern is how we would maintain the program after funds run out
  - e. Discussed option to build existing programs; most funding is already in place for those programs.
  - f. Based on the short timeline, longevity of the program and not aligning with our current goals the committee decided not to pursue this

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

3. Social Media Marketing Update
  - a. We signed a one year agreement; Gabra is working with Brenda to create design for course; will offer S2; we will continue to try to get Perkins funding so we can move to a 5 year agreement
4. CTE Leadership Opportunities
  - a. Recommendation is to embed directly into curriculum and not incorporate DECA and BPA; other options didn't meet MDEs requirements
5. Special Education Update

- a. No update at this time
- 6. Compassionate School Update
  - a. No update at this time
- 7. Budget Review
  - a. No update at this time
- 8. Review of Annual Focus Areas
  - a. See notes in the above section