

Curriculum Committee Agenda

May 4, 2023

8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen
Carla Anderson-Diekmann
Darren Sonenstahl
Suzy Bordeau
Bonnie Jude
Brenda Ritter
Gabra Lokken

Dan Ondich
Amea Wittbrodt
Matthew Schempp
Erin Winchell
Mandy Kasowicz
Cayla Rother
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. Continue to implement and maintain standards-based and data-driven practices*
- 2. Ensure MTSS resources are available to all staff and students*
- 3. Foster academic and social emotional skills among students*
- 4. Provide college and career readiness resources to support student learning and prepare students for post-high school opportunities*
- 5. Empower teachers to tailor instruction that equitably meets the needs of a diverse student population that is inclusive of all students*
- 6. Develop consistent course design and format that ensures content accessibility for all students; and*
- 7. Offer both flexible and structured curricular options for students*

FY23 Annual Focus Areas:

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. No course revisions

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Special Program Days
 - a. MLK (Jan 22)
 - b. Veteran's Day (Nov 11)
 - c. Indigenous Day (if passed) (Oct 9)
 - d. Options discussed: run it like an activity day, guest speaker, student interaction; would be required but there are concerns that students might not attend, discussed an incentive for attending; do it at 10:00 or 11:00 in place of when we have the most live lessons
 - e. Social studies will take the lead on MLK and Veteran's Day; discussed rotating this among departments
 - f. Will have Jen A. discuss with the parent committee about Indigenous Day
3. New Course Requirements
 - a. Ethnic Studies (maybe - as written could be a social studies, ELA or science course)
 - b. Personal Finance Required (maybe - could potentially be a math credit)
 - c. These courses are currently in bills being considered by the MN legislature and we will update the final status when we meet in the fall
4. Update academic integrity syllabus statement to account for AI?
 - a. Current statement accounts for AI but isn't explicitly mentioned
 - b. Discussed the need to help students identify what is AI and when it is appropriate to use
 - c. Discussed need to provide training to teachers on how to identify AI issues and how to respond to students
 - d. Discussed that AI will continue to be more challenging to identify; current suggested strategies include focusing on the learning process and having students always make personal connections in their responses
 - e. Members indicated that AI is being used for short answer questions and essays and research papers
5. Social Work Group Revision 2023-24
 - a. Should we form a CAC? Either way, we need to do the following:
 - i. Outline curriculum/supports for tier 1, 2, and 3

- ii. This review will focus on the curriculum and resource utilized at all tiers along with instructional strategies utilized
- b. Recommendation is to have Mandy and the SW team report directly back to the Curriculum Committee
- 6. [Policy 6.3](#) Advancement of students to next grade level (gifted & talented)
 - a. The committee would like administration to identify specific advancement criteria and bring it back at an upcoming meeting for review
- 7. [Updated Curriculum Revision and Adoption Process](#)
 - a. Reviewed the following significant changes to the process
 - i. Updated development timeline that aligns with MDE's standard revisions
 - ii. Updated processes to account for curriculum either being developed or supported by an instructional designer
 - iii. Updated forms to align with the process that is now being used

OLD BUSINESS:

- 3. Quarter Grading Pilot
 - a. Recommendation is to complete additional planning before expanding pilot to MP
 - i. Need to plan for earlier intervention
 - ii. My Pace Option
 - iii. Accounting for scheduling
 - iv. Averaging grades
 - v. Alternate way to show progress (report cards did get parent's attention)
 - vi. All courses/areas need to be accounted for
 - vii. Need to clarify purpose/root problem (and can we solve these issues without changing our grading system?)
 - 1. Improve course passing rates
 - 2. Reduce students giving up (point of no return)/retention
 - 3. Prevent learning gaps
 - viii. We will revisit if quarter grading is something we want to consider in a year and a half
- 4. Preliminary planning for next year (second review)
 - a. [MEIRS 2.1](#)
 - b. Inquiry-based learning (and other strategies to engage students asynchronously)
 - i. Is a research based instructional model
 - ii. Has been a struggle for extrinsically motivated students
 - iii. Is being widely utilized in science classes right now
 - iv. Students are less likely to utilize AI for cheating
 - v. Need to design learning experiences that have scaffolding built in
 - vi. Discussed pulling Biology A results to see how effective it has been
 - vii. In general the focus is finding learning experiences that will engage students
 - viii. Feedback was that seeing examples (before/after) were really helpful; training needs to be practical applications of strategies
 - c. ChatGPT/AI - could be a springboard into other training topics at the fall retreat; need to educate staff with the language to combat it
 - d. Use of data (Renaissance Star); how do we compare this to student success on different activities, reading levels, etc.

- e. Basic accessibility issues - highlighted text, fonts, etc.
 - f. Other? None added; will move forward with planning PD accordingly
- 5. Special Education Update
 - a. Held a Special Education Advisory Council meeting
 - i. Reviewed the delivery model change
 - ii. Parents were supportive and had great feedback
 - b. Team met with Brenda earlier in the week and it getting started on the projects
 - c. More Moodle training will be provided to the team
 - d. Scheduling will be very different next year because students will be assigned to specific courses
 - e. More content specific support for general education will be provided in the resource room
- 6. SEL and Next Steps
 - a. The committee would like to continue meeting quarterly next year
 - b. Will audit progress on remaining implementation
- 7. ELA Curriculum Advisory Committee Update
- 8. [Number of Assignment Review](#) (carried over from last meeting)
 - a. Not discussed
- 9. Budget Review
 - a. Not reviewed
- 10. Review of Annual Focus Areas
 - a. See above notes