



Curriculum Committee Agenda

October 5, 2023

8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen	Dan Ondich
Amea Wittbrodt	Erin Winchell
Alex Schulz	Gabra Lokken
Bonnie Jude	Hanna Coleman
Brenda Ritter	Heidi Kelbel
Carla Ahrenstroff	Kim Pike
Carla Anderson-Diekmann	Mandy Kasowicz
Cathy Parker	Matthew Schempp - Chair
Cayla Rother	Suzy Bordeaux
	Jaclyn Weber

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*

FY24 Annual Focus Areas:

1. MnMTSS Planning and preparation
2. Inquiry-based learning (and other strategies to engage students asynchronously)
3. Accounting for artificial intelligence in the classroom
4. Use of data to drive instruction and support (Renaissance Star)
5. Basic accessibility issues - highlighted text, fonts, etc.

STANDING BUSINESS:

1. [Course revision proposals \(request form\)](#)
 - a. Beginning Band - would require students run the live performance audio in Zoom (requires specific technical equipment); focus on 5 instruments, middle school, replace some electives; require attendance at activities days; would need to purchase some curriculum and methods; may have option for 'half' elective in terms of time; not clear if our provided computers meet the technical requirements - preliminary approval [Erin's Details](#)
 - b. 21st Century Communications - proposal to add 10-15 assignments incorporating AI (1 unit) for 2nd semester (20 hours); will approve pending budget

NEW BUSINESS:

2. New [Course Syllabus Requirements](#)
 - a. New requirements will require certain assignments
 - b. We currently combine MP and GP, not clear if we can do that or if we need to separate them
 - c. Some items can be reformatted
 - d. Need to list specific standards covered
 - e. Will need to update the teacher course change processes to ensure everything is getting updated
 - f. This will add to the length to the syllabus
 - g. For the most part we have all elements; will work to update our template going forward
3. Science lab kit requirements
 - a. Can be a time consuming process and many students don't use the kits
 - b. Shifting labs for biology and chemistry to S2
 - c. All standards are covered without the labs but this does meet lab requirements for some colleges/universities - is it still required? Counselors/admin will research more.
 - d. How do we feel about having a lab elective in place of the current core science classes? This would be similar to how some colleges do labs.
4. Competency-based education and student agency (assigned to review independently and members will determine if this is something we want to follow up on at the next meeting)
 - a. [Getting started with competency-based education](#)
 - b. [What is competency-based education](#)
 - c. [Student Agency for 2030](#)

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Graduation Requirements
 - a. Personal Finance ([MDE Guidance](#))
 - b. Team is meeting later in the morning and will have a recommendation for the next meeting
4. [CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS](#)
 - a. Course description will be posted but it will only be offered as an overload beyond a regular schedule (5 courses/semester minimum)
 - b. Recommend adding to career academy
 - c. Placeholder class
 - i. Consider having a Moodle course to collect periodic updates on work hours but for now will just have a placeholder in PowerSchool
5. Ethnic Studies
 - a. MDE working group established
 - b. Report expected October 2024 (after implementation date)
 - c. Will have implementation guidance and resources
6. Holocaust & Genocide
 - a. MDE will have recommendations for implementation by mid-November 2025 (again, after implementation date)
7. [Gifted & Talented Update](#)
 - a. [Policy 6.3](#) Advancement of students to next grade level (gifted & talented)
 - b. What does enrichment look like for gifted students? Most other districts are using differentiation
 - c. Acceleration is another option and what we currently promote; need clear guidelines for middle school and whole grade acceleration
8. [EL Program Update](#)
 - a. Currently 7 of 8 students have received 6 or more years of service but do not meet exit criteria
 - b. Average ACCESS scores: Composite-3.2, Listening-4.5, Speaking-2.6, Reading-3.8, Writing-3.0
 - c. Exit criteria: If a student has met the composite score of at least 4.5 with ALL four domain scores (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) at least 3.5
 - d. Only 2 exceed 3.5 for speaking
 - e. Discussed doing practice tests and coaching to support students
 - f. Discussed potential scenarios for how teachers can better support students including check ins
 - g. Most of our students should be referred to intervention services
 - h. Goal is to have our updated plan in place for second semester
9. Special Education Update
 - a. Did not discuss
10. ELA Curriculum Advisory Committee Update (will review at the next meeting)
11. Social Studies Curriculum Advisory Committee Update (will review at the next meeting)
12. [Number of Assignment Review](#) (will review at the next meeting)
 - a. Continued needs
 - i. Consistency (scope and time)
 - ii. Lesson development (combining activities into coherent learning experiences)

- iii. Course completion (or lack of completion)
- iv. Training

13. Budget Review

14. Review of Annual Focus Areas