



Curriculum Committee Agenda

Curriculum Committee Agenda: December 7, 2023 @ 8:00 am		
Team Roles: Note Taker: Carla A-D Time Keeper: Erin Facilitator: Matthew Schempp - chair		Members Present: Amy Larsen, Ameer Wittbrodt, Alex Schulz, Bonnie Jude, Brenda Ritter, Carla Ahrenstorff, Carla A-D, Cathy Parker, Cayla Rother, Dan Ondich, Erin Winchell, Gabra Lokken, Hanna Colemann, Heidi Kelbel, Jaclyn Weber, Kim Pike, Mandy Kasowicz, Matthew Schempp, Suzy Bordeaux
Headlines: 10 minutes (These are short announcements that do not need discussion. If discussion is needed, carry it down)	ASL Update	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey results for ASL III (3 yes, 6 maybe, 4 no response as of 11.13.2023) ASL I/II revision plan ASL: feedback received. Decision to focus on improving curriculum for ASL 1 next year and ASL 2 next year. Actions: Will plan on ASL I revision next year and ASL II the following year.
	Updated Course Syllabus	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From MDE--need updated syllabi for supplemental program. Actions: Approval on new syllabus format to develop a plan for rollout this spring/summer to be ready for fall.
	Social Studies Curriculum Advisory Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Vendor Review 	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th grade book for Social Studies not being updated until next year. Curriculum revision on hold for now. Actions: Meeting with advisory committee to determine possible revised timeline. Review Vendors for possible curriculum.
	CTE Advisory Board Update	Notes:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on approvals and requests for next year. Industry software--look at updating to use industry software rather than an "off" brand. (Apple laptops, graphic design, etc.) Potential w/library aid grant. Tech Day: students can come in and do CAD in March <p>Actions: none</p>
	Potential for some new MS electives	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May change out some classes for next year. Band added. Ideas from assignment in 7th grade English. <p>Actions: Figure out options by January for scheduling purposes.</p>
	Elective course videos	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold up on videos b/c of need for content from teachers. (Arcstone) Will train IT staff moving forward to make videos in house. <p>Actions: Get videos ready by Feb. 1</p>
<p>Discussion/Problem Solving: 40 minutes (These are items that need group discussion. The group should decide what is the most important to solve and work in order to solve those problems)</p>	<p>Course revision proposals (request form)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unified (sped/gen. ed.) electives course Behind the Music 7 unit update 	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unified Electives Course--new Semester course for setting 3 SPED (DCD)--also for Gen Ed--who will be paired w/a SPED student. Good feeder for students interested in becoming SPED teachers. There's a music/art class that was developed previously that could be revised. Looking for a 4-year plan to offer a variety of courses for 9th-12th grade. Can be elective teachers or core teachers with elective options. Main purpose is to get students working with Gen Ed peers. Would be co-taught by SPED and Gen ed teacher. Behind the Music 7: update to focus on modern/relevant american music. Would involve finding material for about 1/3 of the assignments. Change the name of the course? "American Melodies." ideas for other course titles? Summer Project. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unified Electives Course: Need volunteers to help develop (interested partners). Start w/Leads to ask for interested parties. Look at financing--use SPED funds if Gen Ed teacher is writing curriculum? Behind the Music 7: approved.
	End of course survey draft	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too long if students are supposed to do it for every class.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge: what's the objective? • Difficult to have one survey for all classes if we want feedback on specifics. • Looking for data in general--which classes do students enjoy more? How does school "feel"? • Concern about surveying about content, not the teacher. • Do students think they are collaborative? Can we reword it to make it more "user friendly" for students so they understand what's being asked. "I felt I had the ability to work with classmates" "The course allowed me to work well with my classmates." • What's the action as a result of the survey results? (To help revise curriculum, not penalize the teacher. Instructional Design will help with that) <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub committee to work with Brenda and Kim to revise/finalize before the end of first semester: Erin and Jaclyn and Matt. • Will be added to every class. Determine how to do that so it's consistent.
	5th Grade Expansion	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal was to have 2 teachers at 6th grade or 2 for 5th/6th grade. Too hard for 1 teacher to do all classes. 6th grade--not enough for 2 sections. Possible Looping of 5th/6th grade so students could be in one class and curriculum would have a 2 year rotation. Would also provide opportunities to level curriculum more to meet students' individual needs. Would make it more attainable to meet the goal of 24 students per section. Have been asked 5-6 times this year about a 5th grade option. Confident that we could get 5-6 5th graders. Would have 2 years to get the other curriculum developed. • It took awhile to build the 7th grade program--and then suddenly it happened. • Concern about math skills being looped--skills being missed. Would need a 5th grade math curriculum for the first year. Math would provide each grade level every year to meet this need. • Concerns about scheduling--how that will look. • Board voted 5th grade expansion down last year. Opposition from several committee members to address it again. • Concern about 6th grade program failing if 5th grade isn't added. Students who start 5th grade at another school tend to stay there

		<p>rather than come over to Bluesky for 6th. 5th Grade is a transition grade--many school districts change schools at that level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the larger vision for Middle School? Adding 5th grade would split off 5/6th grade from 7/8th grade. • 6th grade has changed/improved each year. • Looking at our school as a whole--the waitlist for 11th and 12th grade is so large--do we want to focus on developing that grade level instead? Also a waiting list for 7th/8th grade--maybe we expand that area? • 120 students isn't really enough for 1 administrator--currently split between 3 admin--which is challenging. • 30% retention of students from MS to HS. Advantageous to have a group of "core" students. 40% retention from 8th to 9th grade. • Philosophically--should 5th graders be online? Strong, supportive homelife is needed for students to be successful--which is something we as a school cannot control. <p>Actions: Table the discussion for future meetings.</p>
	<p>New course syllabus requirements - subcommittee recommendations (Brenda, Matthew, Jaclyn, Amee, Erin, Alex)</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled until the January meeting. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<p>Ethnic Studies Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start offering 2026-27 - Can be incorporated into an existing core or elective course 	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled until the January meeting. <p>Actions:</p>
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<p>To-Do's: 5 minutes (Quickly recap the to-do's. The notetaker will write down to-do's based on headlines and discussion items)</p>		<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified Electives Course: Need volunteers to help develop (interested partners). Start w/Leads to ask for interested parties. Look at financing--use SPED funds if Gen Ed teacher is writing curriculum? • Sub committee to work with Brenda and Kim to revise/finalize before the end of first semester: Erin, Jaclyn, Brenda and Matt. (Pilot in a

		couple/few classes at the end of 1st semester.) Determine where to do that.
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