

Curriculum Committee Minutes May 20, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Pana High School Library

Chairman Mizeur called the meeting to order.

Members present: Mizeur, Dively, Ade, Hankins, Dodson, Hahnenkamp, Kettlekamp, Lauff, McClure, McRoberts, Metzger, Nicolas, Osborn, Rodman, Schafer, Wysong, Zueck, Strom

Members absent: Hicks, Duez, Lauff, Schafer

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors: Wendy Suey, Lynn Rochkes, Mary Cothorn

The committee discussed the following:

1. Approval of Minutes – 2/23/2009 Motion to approve minutes as amended to include Heather Strom as a committee member. Zueck, Second - Nicolas
2. *Review of Title IV Drug Free and Violence Prevention Activities* - Wendy Suey, Intervention Counselor for Grades K-6 explained the activities that she conducts with students and family. The activities include individual and family counseling, providing a bullying prevention program, individual counseling at Lincoln School once a week, and the Child Lures program that teaches 6th grade students how to be aware of child predators. Mrs. Suey indicated that bullying continues to be a difficult problem and she has tried to focus on giving students the skills to cope with bullies. Bullying is difficult to deal with because it often goes unreported and some parents are not supportive of efforts to prevent it.

Ms. Zueck explained a new program for dealing with inappropriate behavior on the bus. Students that misbehave on the bus attend Saturday Bus School and complete packets of work that address the appropriate conduct for riding the bus. This approach seems to be an effective deterrent. Other activities at Jefferson School for violence and drug prevention include Red Ribbon week activities and the D.A.R.E. program.

Mr. Nicolas added that Lincoln School also participates in Red Ribbon week and D.A.R.E. as well as character education programs.

Mrs. Strom explained that the Junior High has conducted bullying prevention activities that involve both students and parents. They conduct cross-curricular activities during Red Ribbon week regarding drug prevention. Other activities to prevent drug abuse include Project Alert – teaches students how to say no to drugs and save face, Illinois Youth Survey used to collect data regarding student experiences with drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens is provided in Health/P.E. Mr. Lauff indicated that another deterrent to drug use at school has been random sweeps by drug dogs.

Mrs. Cothorn stated that in the high school health class they provide instruction on the prevention of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. A variety of activities demonstrate how students are affected when they are impaired. Presentations on the effects of Meth, steroids, and alcohol are included. The presentations include guest speakers and community events. Prevention curriculum is presented in health, physical education, and driver's education in varying degrees. In addition, the high school has a student

assistance team that has been inactive in recent years, but is being revived by the counselors to assist students in coping with teen issues.

At the conclusion of the discussion the committee voted in favor of recommending the use of the Title IV grant to supplement a portion of the Elementary Intervention Specialist's salary.

3. *Curriculum Changes for 2010* – (a) The Autoskill Academy of Reading will be implemented in the Basic English class. Struggling readers will use the program for 30 minutes at the start of each period. The program is currently being piloted in summer school. Participating teachers received training on the program at the start of summer school and will continue to receive training in the fall to maximize the effectiveness of the reading intervention. (b) Dr. Lett explained that a team including Mr. Dively, Dr. Lett, Dr. Bill Beyers, and Carena Watson visited Lake Land College and Effingham High School to see their programs on creating digital videos. This was in preparation for a proposed digital video course that would be taught by Mrs. Watson at the high school during second semester of next year. The course will teach students how to create and edit 3-5 minute digital videos that would be posted on a website. The videos would focus on a variety of topics. Mrs. Watson is working with the instructor from Lake Land to develop a curriculum that would eventually be dual credit. The students at both Mattoon and Effingham demonstrated high interest in the class. The work of the Mattoon students is posted on their websites, while the work of the Effingham students is presented in an annual show to the community. The show stimulates community and student interest and serves as a fund raiser. The instructors and students from the Effingham class have been highly successful and have produced several award winning videos. The digital videos produced by the Pana High School students would be ultimately posted to a Pana Educational Foundation website and be used to market the courtyard as well as raise funds for the Foundation.

A motion was made by Melinda McClure and seconded by Diane Hankins to recommend the addition of the digital video class for the spring of 2010. All members voted Yea. (c) Mrs. Rochkes expressed concern over the lack of a health occupations class at the high school. A class had been offered in the past, but had been dropped due to scheduling difficulties and problems finding a health partner with which to conduct practical applications. Mrs. Rochkes expressed concern that Pana students were at a disadvantage when it came to enrolling in the Nursing program at Lake Land because they were not getting the Health Occupations class and students that already had this course had an advantage. Dr. Lett indicated that he would be looking at this issue during the summer and working with Lake Land to try to address it as a part of bringing the nursing program to the Lake Land Western Region Center.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Lauff and seconded by Hahnenkamp to adjourn the meeting of May 20, 2009 at 8:05 p.m.

Member

Member