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SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM PROJECT TEAM CHARGE

SITUATION:

The Beaverton School District reviews and updates its curriculum, instructional practices and classroom materials in the various subject areas according to Board policy and Oregon State Statute and Administrative Regulations. The previous full K-12 Social Studies review and adoption occurred in 2006 for both elementary and secondary. A readoption occurred in 2015.

In Superintendent Grotting's June 25, 2020 message to staff, students and community of the BSD one of the action items included as part of the district's commitment to being an anti-racist organization included: Social Studies Curriculum - As part of our cyclical review this year, we will review, adopt and plan implementation of K-12 curriculum materials that accurately reflect the history of Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed curriculum review process will be a twelve-month process allowing the District to implement curriculum and materials in September of 2021.

The committees charged with this review include the Project Team and a K-12 Cadre. The Project Team consists of teachers representing all content areas, levels, and programs, curriculum specialists, community members/parents, administrators and students, and a School Board member. The composition of the committees and the process shall ensure that School Board policy is honored and State requirements are met.

The Project Team shall review existing curriculum and practices in Social Studies and make curriculum, professional development, and adoption recommendations to the School Board. The School Board will receive regular updates on this work and will make final decisions regarding recommendations for curriculum, instructional materials, professional development, and instructional practices that come from the Project Team.

The Cadre reports to the Project Team and is charged with researching best practices and instructional materials to be considered for possible adoption; articulating long term and supporting learning targets and assessments; and recommending professional development, and structures for ongoing professional learning for staff. Note: The Social Studies Cadre has been formed and has begun essential pre-work. The original schedule for the Project Team was delayed due to budget reductions.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board direct the Superintendent to form the Social Studies Project Team for the 2020-2021 Social Studies curriculum review and to facilitate the program adoption.

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veteran status, or because of a perceived or actual association with any other persons within these protected classes.

BSD QUALITY CURRICULUM CYCLE

The Quality Curriculum Cycle (QCC) provides a systematic means for making decisions about curriculum review, revision, development, and adoption of practices and instructional materials in Mathematics, Science, World Languages, Social Studies, Fine Arts, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Physical Education and Health.

The Project Team is expected to complete the following:

- (1) Description and evaluation of the current program
- (2) Review of current research on effective practices and programs
- (3) Philosophy/Position Paper articulating a vision and direction for the program
- (4) Recommendations for instructional and assessment practices
- (5) Recommendations for instructional materials
- (6) Recommendations for professional development and implementation support
- (6) Budget recommendations for covering the proposed plan

Regular opportunities for input from all staff, parents, students and other community members are provided.

Three groups are central to this work: the School Board, the Project Team, and District Staff (Teaching & Learning Department Staff and Teacher Cadre members).

SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board has the responsibility to prescribe the course of study and instructional materials for the District in accordance with State law. The School Board, by District policy and administrative regulations, charges the Superintendent to form Project Teams to conduct curriculum reviews and prepare recommendations for the Board. The Board receives regular updates on this work as it progresses. The Board makes the final decisions regarding the recommendations for curriculum, instructional materials, and instruction and assessment practices that come from the Project Team.

PROJECT TEAMS

Project Teams are created by the Superintendent at the direction of the School Board for the purpose of providing a thorough review of the current curriculum area program and making recommendations regarding materials to purchase, instruction and assessment practices, and professional development for teachers to the Board. Project Team members agree to serve for a minimum of two years. Parents, students, and other community members join teachers, administrators and a School Board member on the Project Team. The application process is administered by Community Involvement and Teaching & Learning departments. Once the roster is determined, it is presented to the Board for affirmation.

Team members are expected to fulfill multiple roles as they work to serve the School Board and the community by providing recommendations that reflect educational research, a broad range of viewpoints, and current program effectiveness. One of the key challenges of the Project Team is to engage as many individuals among staff and the community in the process as possible. The Project Team typically meets once or twice per month during the school year. It does not meet during the summer.

TEACHER CADRES

Cadre members are recommended teachers selected by Teaching & Learning to provide classroom-based expertise to support the process. Cadre members supply background information, prepare initial drafts of documents, and make revisions of drafts based on Project Team direction. Cadre members also support communication to teachers across the District during the process. Several Cadre members also serve simultaneously on the Project Team to enhance the link between the two groups.

TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT

The Administrators for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment take the lead in coordinating and supporting the Project Team and help facilitate Project Team meetings. Curriculum specialists are assigned to support the Project Team, help facilitate meetings, and coordinate the Teacher Cadre's work in support of the Project Team. The Administrator for Accountability supports the review of current program data, a critical element of the QCC.