



**To:** Board of Education

**From:** Michelle Hilla

**Re:** Curriculum and Instruction Update

**Date:** November 18th, 2024

### **Curriculum Reviews: K-5 ELA Curriculum Review**

- **Grades 3-5:** Our grades 3-5 teachers have completed their pilot and review of *Collaborative Classroom*. Following the essentials literacy rubric, the team, along with Katie Spisich and myself, has recommended *Collaborative Classroom* for South Meadows. Pilot teachers are excited to share this decision with staff in December and present it to the District Curriculum Council (DCC) and the board in January.
- **Grades K-2:** K-2 teachers identified differing literacy needs for younger learners. Together with myself and Casey Wescott, we decided to pilot *Bookworms*, which better addresses foundational literacy development at the K/1 level. Staff are optimistic about the new pilot and anticipate positive outcomes.

### **Professional Development: November 1 DPPD**

- **Personalized PD Paths:** Staff began the day engaging in tailored professional development sessions led by our instructional coaches.
- **Building Goals:** Teachers worked collaboratively with their building leaders to address school improvement goals.
- **Department Collaboration:** The day concluded with focused departmental and grade-level meetings, fostering alignment on instructional strategies.

### **Sex Ed Advisory Board Update**

- **Meeting Overview:** The board convened on November 11 to review student surveys and begin developing a unified curriculum rubric for assessing current and potential new materials.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Students' knowledge and perceptions of the curriculum will be assessed post-unit during the 24/25 school year.
  - The team will finalize the recommended curriculum auditing tools in the coming weeks and begin the audit in December.



### **AI Workgroup**

- **Focus Areas:** The group continues to meet monthly with Michigan Virtual to explore emerging AI tools. Discussions center on creating guidance for staff and students on the appropriate use of AI.
- **Progress Update:** A draft guidance document has been developed and will undergo review by the administrative and school improvement teams.

### **CSD Innovative Workgroup**

- **November Meeting:**  
The workgroup met on November 1 to refine our Portrait of a Graduate durable skills (competencies).
- **Goal:**
  - To measure and make durable skills visible to students, staff, and parents.
  - During the meeting, the team identified the need to solidify durable skills as a first step toward achieving this goal.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Refinement of skills and development of action steps will continue in the January meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of our curriculum and instruction initiatives. I look forward to sharing further updates in January.

Respectfully,  
Michelle Hilla, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Chelsea School District