

WBOE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Present: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Margaret Hamilton, Maegan Genovese (4:35 PM), Nancy Maasbach (*via telephone*), Board Members; Bob Gilbert, Superintendent; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Maureen Krawec, Jean Molot, Caron Stebingers; Teachers.

Ms. Piascyk called the meeting to order (4:33 PM).

Summer Curriculum Work Updates:

Ms. Prisco reviewed the Spelling/Phonics work developed in partnership with Columbia University and completed for Grades 1 and 2. Lessons and integration of spelling words for each skill in the Scope and Sequence were completed in Grade 1. Revisions made in Grade 2 pertaining to weekly spelling lessons and word family patterns based on assessment data and teacher feedback. It is anticipated that in the summer of 2018 similar work will be initiated in Grades 1 and 3.

Dr. Stebinger explained the various units of study and the correlation and alignment to NGSS (Next Generation of Science Standards) in developing the template. The template allows for consistency across grade levels and differentiation across content.

Ms. Sherman, Ms. Krawec and Ms. Molot provided an overview on the work completed in Math for Grades 1, 2 and 5. Ms. Molot and Krawec gave a brief background on the professional learning conducted with the ACES Consultant and the benefits of “front-loading” templates. “Front-loading” allows a teacher the flexibility to differentiate learning based on individual student need as well as the overall class. Each unit of study contains correlation information to the previous and following year standards, explanations and examples of core standards and standards for mathematical practice, KUDs, (know, understand and do), student misconceptions for the unit, links to unit assessments and formative assessments, math vocabulary for the unit, tools and manipulatives needed for the unit, core resources and a suggested learning plan per standard. With approximately 6-7 units of study per grade and a different number of standards incorporated into each unit, the sharing and “tweaking” of information continues throughout the year.

Ms. Prisco outlined the visit made in the spring by a group of Grade 5 educators to other districts to brainstorm and generate ideas surrounding the topic of Project Based Learning. Project Based Learning is a methodology where students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge. This group continues to explore resources and materials for integration into our curriculum that could enhance the delivery of our instruction.

Ms. Sherman outlined the work performed in revising the Library Media Scope and Sequence. Lessons were modified to address skill levels to support the grade level curriculum and research projects. Adjustments were made to incorporate the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the new Sound Unit, Capstone and non-fiction units of study.

Future Meeting Topics:

Questions arose regarding Responsive Classroom and maintaining the Social / Emotional aspect in the overall discussion of curriculum standards. It was agreed that Responsive Classroom would be added to the calendar as a topic for discussion.

Previously identified at the August 21, 2017 Meeting

The October 5th meeting will highlight World Language. The presentation will focus on program updates, student performance and exit assessments, i.e., how it is utilized to inform instruction, interfacing with the middle school and the impact on placement.

The November 9th meeting will emphasize Enrichment Opportunities. Cathy Salinardi, Extended Day Director, will be invited to provide an overview on program offerings inclusive of Legos/Robotics, Chinese Club, etc. Teachers associated with the Poetry Club and Math Olympiad will also be invited to share an overview on these after-school activities. This meeting will also explore expanding future enrichment opportunities.

The December 7th meeting will be devoted to Writing Workshop, inclusive of curriculum unit data, interfacing with Columbia, grade level objectives and development of a curriculum review schedule will be addressed at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:43 PM