

Curriculum Committee Minutes March 12, 2012

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

Chairman Metzger called the meeting to order.

Members present: Dively, Carlson, Hahnenkamp, Hankins, Lauff, McClure, Strom, Metzger,
Osborn, Zueck, Mayhall, Ade, Kettelkamp, Schafer

Members absent: Duez, Wysong

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors: Matt Sanders, Matt Miller

The committee discussed the following:

1. Approval of Minutes – Sept. 21, 2011. Motion to approve minutes. Lauff, Second – Osborn
2. *Illinois Outdoor Resources* – Mr. Sanders and Mr. Miller made a presentation to the Committee on a new course to be offered to Pana Jr. High students. The course will cover a variety of outdoor topics including geocaching, gun safety, ecology, and outdoor skills. A handout from Prairie Central was provided to the Committee that displayed the topics they covered. Prairie Central has been offering this course for a number of years through their driver education program. Petersburg offers a similar class through its Ag curriculum. Mr. Sanders and Mr. Miller provided information on the reading, math, and science standards that would be covered by the class. Mr. Lauff explained that the course would be provided during intervention time and would provide an opportunity for contextual learning and problem-based learning with the intention of improving reading and math skills utilizing the materials in the course. Mr. Sanders assured the Committee that students would not be using any live ammo or guns on school grounds. All guns would be neutered having the firing pin removed and any ammunition used would not be live rounds. After some discussion, a motion was made by Kettelkamp and seconded by Osborn for the Jr. High to pilot the course in the fourth quarter of this year. Mr. Lauff will bring more specifics to the next meeting regarding how the class will be scheduled in 2013.
3. *High School Block Schedule Discussion* – Dr. Lett began the discussion by explaining that there has been concern as to whether or not the block provides the most conducive schedule to improve academic performance, especially in classes such as mathematics. He explained that although many students still favor the block schedule, he would be a proponent of the traditional because of the increased contact time for courses such as math. Mrs. Strom presented the Committee with some information on scheduling options. It was pointed out that under a traditional schedule students would receive 500 minutes of instruction while on the current block schedule they receive approximately 375 minutes of instruction per week. Mrs. Carlson stated that point alone makes a strong argument for moving off the block. Mrs. Hankins agreed that there was less instructional time under the block schedule,

especially the current one as the number of minutes per period has decreased over time. Mrs. Hankins pointed out that some teachers would have concern over moving off the block because it could mean a reduction in the number of teachers and an increase in the number of teacher preparations. Dr. Lett indicated that although there may be some financial gain from moving off the block, it wasn't the major reason, and that the number of teachers at the high school had already been reduced under the current schedule. The Committee viewed a video interview from Mark Schmitz, Science Teacher at Pana Jr. High and Kevin Ross, Principal, and Co-Superintendent at Shelbyville School District. Both interviewees expressed their reasons why they thought moving from a block schedule to a traditional schedule could make instructional sense. No action was taken by the Committee on this topic. It will be reviewed further with any decision to change from the block being implemented in the 2013-2014 school year.

4. *Other Curriculum Considerations* – Mrs. Strom reported that the high school is planning on changing the name of some of its computer classes. The content would not be changing significantly, but the name would. Mr. Metzger asked about the roller skating classes that are offered by the district during P.E. Dr. Lett shared that we may have to consider dropping the roller skating. He indicated that although it is very popular, there have been several significant injuries of students while skating.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Carlson and seconded by Schafer to adjourn the meeting of March 12, 2012 at 8:13 p.m.

Member

Member