

Curriculum Committee Minutes October 9, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Pana High School Library

Acting Chairman Schafer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Hankins, Hahnenkamp, Mayhall, Schafer, Lett, Dively, Carlson, McClure,
McRoberts

Members absent: Duez, Kettelkamp, Wysong, Zueck, Lauff, Osborn

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors:

The committee discussed the following:

1. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from April 29, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. *Update on Transition Plans from High School Block Schedule to Traditional Schedule for SY2014* – Ms. McRoberts shared the final schedule for the 2014 school year. Study hall/RTI remained scheduled at the end of the day. This is a 48 minute period with the first 30 minutes scheduled for RTI. Home Room takes place in the middle of the day and is coupled with a class period and 30 minute lunch. The home room is used for checking grades, doing RTI assignments, and reading and discussing announcements among other things. Ms. McRoberts indicated that students such as the seniors who had been on the block schedule “hate” the traditional schedule where the freshmen students don’t have any comparison. At the present time, both teachers and students are going through transition pains. Teachers are still working on adjusting the pace of their lessons. Ms. Hahnenkamp asked about two concerns that existed when the transition was being planned: Difficulty scheduling classes and students not getting work completed. Ms. McRoberts indicated that the scheduling had been resolved. Students who are absent still have difficulty with make-up work because they are missing 7 classes per day. Mrs. Hankins expressed concern about the pace for dual credit classes. Due to the requirements set by Lake Land, the pace at which material needs to be covered is quick. She added that it is now difficult to challenge students with higher order thinking on the same day when knowledge and comprehension are addressed.

Dr. Lett indicated that he is still concerned about multiple tests on the same day. He mentioned that a Google calendar had been proposed as one possible solution to avoiding an overload of tests on the same day. He had also proposed establishing a testing schedule. The Committee discussed this issue and did not make any recommendation at this time.

In general, the transition from the Block has been stressful for both staff and students, but it is too early and there is too little hard data to know the impact (if any) on student performance.

3. *Common Core Standards Discussion* – The Committee spent the remainder of the meeting discussing the efforts to implement the Common Core Standards. The staff is working hard to implement both ELA and Math Common Core Standards. Currently, the Math implementation seems to be creating the most concern, especially at the elementary levels. Teachers are trying to provide help to parents and students as they adjust to these new expectations. At present, there seems to be no choice but to continue to move forward in order to prepare students for the upcoming assessments. Concerns were raised about the future for the Common Core movement and what it will mean for our district. Some states that were originally part of the consortium have since dropped their participation or defunded the program due to growing opposition against the Common Core Standards.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Hahnenkamp and seconded by McRoberts to adjourn the meeting of October 9, 2013 at 7:04 p.m.

Member

Member