

Curriculum Committee Minutes October 24, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. at the Pana High School Library

Chairman Metzger called the meeting to order.

Members present: Dively, Carlson, Hahnenkamp, Hankins, Lauff, Strom, Metzger, Osborn,
Mayhall, Kettelkamp, Schafer, Wysong, McRoberts, Duez

Members absent: Ade, McClure, Zueck

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors: Jessica Miller, Heath Strom

The committee discussed the following:

1. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2012. Motion to approve minutes. Lauff, Second – Schafer
2. *Update on Google DOCS/BYOD Pilot* – Mrs. Miller provided an update on the implementation of Google Documents and the Bring Your Own Device Pilot (BYOD). During Mrs. Miller's presentation, she reviewed the steps the district took to implement these two technology initiatives and the key advantages to each. Mrs. Miller provided examples of how students and staff were using Google Docs(in place of programs like MSWord), Google Calendar, and Google sites. Each of these makes it easier for staff and students to collaborate and share information. Mrs. Miller indicated that any of these apps can be accessed from any device that has the capability of accessing the Internet. She indicated that the initial results have been very positive. Comments included: "easy transition, ease of sharing, no flash drives, and ability to individualize activities." Negatives were mainly associated with forgotten passwords, but the problem has declined. In regard to BYOD, Mrs. Miller explained that this required the work of a subcommittee to review and revise district policy to enable students to bring electronic devices to school for the purpose of using them in the classroom. The new policy also permits students to use their cell phones in designated areas at designated times. Feedback on the pilot has been mainly positive. Mrs. Miller provided some examples of how students are using the devices and/or Google Docs to do projects in social studies and math classes. She also shared information about Remind 101, which is an application to remind students and/or parents about homework that has been assigned. Mr. Lauff commended Mrs. Miller for the work that she has done with his staff. He indicated that his staff and students have responded well to the technology changes and he also noted that they had not had any incidences of cyber bullying at school through the devices students were bringing
3. *High School Block Schedule Discussion* – Dr. Lett began the discussion by sharing with the committee some of the discussion of the Board of Education at the most recent Board meeting. He also shared that there doesn't appear to be a definitive right or wrong answer to the question. He indicated that we need to do what we think is the best for our students and that the critical factor is the lost minutes on the block

schedule. This is the point that Mrs. Carlson has been making. However, he stated that the block is not without its advantages. He then reviewed some of the high school's data including assessment results for reading, math and science, graduation rate, and low income percentages. In addition, some research articles comparing the block schedule to the traditional schedule were shared with the committee.

Ms. McRoberts reviewed a possible traditional schedule and compared the proposed schedule to the current block scheduled. She pointed out that there are 105 minutes of instruction lost over a 2 week period. Students could lose 12 classes over a semester. Ms. McRoberts also shared some example schedules for students comparing the block to the traditional schedule and the impact on the number of classes they would be able to take. Ms. McRoberts and Mrs. Strom explained that if a traditional schedule was implemented, they would add a new class called Academic Success. The new class would be use to provide RtI interventions in reading and math. Students would receive credit for the class on a pass/fail basis. Ms. McRoberts pointed out that the traditional schedule would make it easier for 8th grade students to make the transition to 9th grade. During and after Ms. McRoberts presentation, there were many questions and much discussion. Dr. Lett shared information regarding a comparison of assessment results for neighboring districts and PSAT assessment results for Shelbyville School District. Shelbyville had been on the block, but went off for academic reasons in 2005-2006. The information indicated that while on the block our results have been competitive with neighboring districts. However, we need to do better. Ms. McRoberts made a motion that the committee make a recommendation to the Board of Education that the high school revert back to a traditional schedule. Mrs. Carlson seconded that motion. Mr. Metzger asked each committee member to make comment and express their opinion. Most expressed their support for the traditional schedule. Mrs. Hankins agreed with the traditional schedule, but asked if the schedule presented was the one to be adopted. Ms. McRoberts indicated that it was not and that it could be adjusted somewhat. Dr. Lett asked that the teaching staff work with the administration to develop a suggested testing schedule to avoid the problem of students having all or most of their tests on Friday. With the discussion concluded, Mr. Metzger asked for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

4. *Other Curriculum Considerations* – There were no other considerations raised.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Hahnenkamp and seconded by Duez to adjourn the meeting of October 24, 2012 at 5:55 p.m.

Member

Member