

School Board Meeting:

February 8, 2016

Subject:

BCMS Course Proposals

Presenter:

Pam Miller & Matt Lubben

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

No recommended action at this time. Action will be taken at the February 22, 2016 board meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

New course proposals and course modifications for BCMS have been solicited and developed for the 2016-2017 school year. The district's course proposal process begins in October and ends with school board approval. Once approval for course changes are given, the course information is included in the registration and scheduling process for the secondary schools.

Overview of the Course Proposal Process

The course proposal process includes a series of steps to ensure that all perspectives of possible implications of the addition or modification of each proposed course have been considered. The following information is communicated to teachers as they consider submitting a proposal.

- The Director of Teaching & Learning may reject or recommend redesign of a course proposal at any time in the process.
- Incomplete proposals will not be processed.
- Course proposal recommendations are required from the following groups or individuals prior to being brought to the School Board for approval:
 - Department Chairperson
 - Site Principal
 - Site Teaching and Learning Council
 - District Teaching and Learning Council
 - Community Teaching and Learning Council
- Courses that do not receive sufficient student requests will not be offered next year, but may remain in the registration book as an option for the following school year.
- Course approval does not guarantee implementation. Implementation is dependent on resources and scheduling considerations. Feasibility of implementation is determined by the site principal.

The course proposals included here are in the process of review under the following timeline:

BCMS Teaching, Leading & Learning Council on January 12, 2016
District Teaching & Learning Council on February 4, 2016
Community Teaching & Learning Council on February 5, 2016
School Board Meeting – Course Proposal Review on February 8, 2016
School Board Meeting – Course Proposal Approval on February 22, 2016

All course proposals recommended to move forward will be presented to the School Board for approval. Each individual or group was asked to use the following criteria in formulating a recommendation for each course.

Criteria to Consider

Evidence of student need or parent/community demand

- *Graduation requirement impact*
- *District goals match*
- *Program rationale match*
- *Program standards alignment*
- *Post-secondary impact*
- *Cost and/or resource availability*
- *Impact on other buildings*
- *Overlap with other courses*
- *Match of content and course length*
- *Efficiency in utilization of space and personnel*

BCMS Course Proposals

A total of eight courses were proposed for consideration. Each of the proposals were reviewed by Matt Lubben, BCMS Principal, and Pam Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning.

Of the eight course proposals, seven of those are being presented for your consideration; three courses are proposed as course modifications of existing courses; one course is proposed as a course deletion, and three new courses are proposed. Detailed course proposal information for each proposal is included as an additional attachment.

At the February 22nd board meeting, I will recommend approval for each course proposal presented, and for all approved course proposals to be added to Buffalo Community Middle School courses as additional opportunities for students.

Each course approved for implementation in 2016-2017 will be allotted curriculum development hours if needed. These hours are under the direction of the Department of Teaching and Learning, and will be completed mainly during the summer months.