



Wyomissing Area School District

630 Evans Avenue, Wyomissing PA 19610

Curriculum/Technology Committee

Monday, May 1, 2017

Community Board Room

Committee Chair: Laurie Waxler

Committee Members: Susan Larkin and Maria Ziolkowski

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Laurie Waxler, Susan Larkin, Maria Ziolkowski, Scott Painter, Julie Vicente, Lynette Waller, Scott Arnst, Crisanne Bansner, Jim Comerford, Curt Minich and Andrew Siggins

Committee Members Absent: none

Public Attendees: Sign-in sheet attached

Meeting called to order by Laurie Waxler at 11:00 am

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the Curriculum and Technology minutes for Monday, April 3, 2017.
- Vote: Motion Carried
- Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on Monday, April 3, 2017 were approved without modifications.

Public Comment: None

Old Business

JSHS Course Additions

With the addition of 2.4 staff, the following courses will be added to meet the needs of students.

English Literacy II:

This course is designed for eighth-grade students whose ELA proficiency level precludes them from the Read180 program or students who have successfully exited the Read180 program. Students who have been recommended by the RtII Coordinator, the department chair, their seventh-grade English and Writing Workshop teachers, and their counselors. This course will build on the skills from the seventh-grade content-specific literacy quarter courses. The Literacy II course will continue to pull current informational readings in the areas of science, humanities, history, politics, and popular culture. Quarterly, contemporary young adult novels will also be read during class. The goals of the course are

to further improve students' reading and writing proficiency as measured on Study Island benchmarks, PSSAs, and PVAAS projections, and to develop readers' competency and confidence for the challenging nonfiction texts at the high-school level. The course will require thirty copies of the following novels, *Scar Island* by Dan Gemeinhart, *Booked* by Kwame Alexander, *The Graduation of Jake Moon* by Barbara Park, *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, a subscription to *Junior Scholastic* magazine and *The New York Times Upfront* for the total cost of \$3000.

New Foundations of Math Course (new course):

This will be an 8th grade pre-algebra course. Students skills set will be identified and then a skill based class - very individualized; students will be benchmarked; skills will be addressed; current benchmarks and Study Island and Khan Academy along with current Algebra texts will be utilized -- no additional cost. The course will focus on skills crucial to the Algebra I curriculum: basic number facts, ordering and comparing numbers, operations with negatives, simplifying fractions and solving proportions, operations involving fractions/decimals, evaluation expressions and substituting into formulas, combining like terms and solving one and two step equations. Targeted students taking this course will include those that lack prerequisite skills in Pre-Algebra; students new to the district with a lack of Pre-Algebra readiness skills; and those transitioning from special education math classes to regular education math classes, giving those students an additional year to build skills. This course will be highly differentiated to support specific student skill needs utilizing Study Island benchmarking, AIMSWEB and STAR 360 screeners. No additional resources are currently needed for this course.

Reinstatement of Strategies I and Strategies II Courses

Strategies I offers remediation for students in Algebra 1A and the course runs every other day of the cycle throughout the school year. This course will wrap around an Applied Computer Course, revamped by Mr. Minich.

Strategies II will be a supplemental remediation course offered to Algebra II students who demonstrate a skills deficiency. The course will meet every day for one semester. Students who consistently score below basic (approximately 75%) on a variety of classroom evaluations based on the state standards and anchors in their primary math class, beyond the first semester will remain in the course during the second semester for additional support. Those students demonstrating proficiency in course objectives will move out of the course during the second semester and will be afforded the opportunity to take an elective of their choice.

Reintroduction of "Applied Computers": Mr. Minich

The Computer Science Dept proposed to revise and rename the Applied Computers I (#501) course. The curriculum will be updated to support students in pursuit of Microsoft Office Specialist certification (MOS.) The semester course can be taught every other day throughout the school year and have no prerequisite other than 9th grade standing. With teacher guidance and support, students will begin to follow the MOS curricula the leads to MOS certification in Word and/or Excel. Since it takes a full-year of study to adequately cover the MOS curricula, students would likely need to take the follow-up semester course #502 Advanced Software Applications for Business and Industry. At the end of that course, students would take the actual MOS certification test(s).

STEAM Innovation Design Plan - Update

The third meeting for the Ad Hoc Committee for STEM integration was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. The Committee completed the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway Assessment. Based on the results, the committee identified three priority areas: Professional Development, Inquiry Based Teaching

and Peer Mentoring and Coaching of Teachers. Then the committee wrote a draft action plan for each priority area. The committee decided to focus on a plan for sustainable professional development for the 2017-2018 school year. The committee is in the process of scheduling another meeting for the purpose of planning STEM professional development for the 2017-2018 school year.

Representatives from Office Depot presented a design plan for that STEM wing. The design captured many of the components identified as necessary to support and enhance instruction. On Thursday, May 4, Office Depot will meet with teachers to review the design again and gather additional feedback from the instructors who will utilize the space.

ESL Programming (National Geographic)

In April, Jennifer Mangold presented the district ESL K-12 curriculum proposal for the 2017-2018 school year, which included the National Geographic program that incorporates language, vocabulary, reading, writing and content. The program easily adapts to meet the needs of all learners; no matter what level of English Language Proficiency a student possesses. National Geographic includes three programs: Reach, which covers grades K-6, Inside, which covers intermediate grades 6-8 and Edge, which covers materials 9-12. It layers and scaffolds skills and strategies to ensure that all ESL students are able to reach high levels of success. The consistent program across all buildings will eliminate gaps in instruction for any students moving in between buildings. This program will allow us to create a stronger, more rigorous ESL program for our growing student population, as well as fulfill 2017 state requirements. The cost for the program is \$22,565.14. This resource was budgeted for the 2017-2018 school year.

Special Education Math Programming (Saxon Math)

In April, Mrs. Lingle presented the data behind the recommendation for a Special Education Math program. Currently the district is using Connecting Math Concepts for many students requiring replacement instruction, however this program is it is not common core aligned. Teachers from across the district were a part of evaluating and selecting a new curriculum. Saxon Math was the chosen program, which is being piloted at WREC this year. With Saxon Math, the format of the instructional materials is differentiated for different learning needs. The lesson plans are formatted similarly to GoMath with a continual review (spiraling format). There is also an ESL component included in the program. Professional Development was provided to the committee last year. Training will be provided again if the program is adopted. The special education teachers will continue to utilize Connected Math Concepts for those students for whom this is most appropriate (mainly students with language delays). The cost for this resource is \$30,333.15. This expense was budgeted for the current school year.

New Business

Kutztown University Partnership

Since October, a group of Superintendents, Bob Pleis from Twin Valley, Andrew Potteiger from Brandywine Heights, George Fiore from Kutztown Area and Julie Vicente have been working with the Kutztown University Dean of Education, Kenneth Teitlebaum and a group of 8 professors and associate deans to create a partnership to better prepare student teachers through a cohort model. This model would involve mentor classroom teachers from the four school districts partnering with KU professors to support student teachers. It is the intent that through this strategic partnership, KU professors will gain a deeper understanding of the day-to-day expectations of classroom teachers. Our classroom teachers will benefit from learning from the research and pedagogical work of the University which when combined will enrich the preparation of the student teachers.

Kutztown University has approved the Partnership with the four school districts. On May 11 from 9:00 – 10:00am there will be a signing ceremony in the presidential room in the McFarland Student Union building on KU's campus. The president of the college, the dean, all four superintendents and the four respective school board presidents will be in attendance to officially sign the agreement.

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

The Summer Professional Development Opportunities handbook will be distributed to teachers. New for this summer is the addition of the state required Suicide Prevention Training for teachers in grades 5-12.

Work Outside of the Contract Hours

The list of work outside of the contract hours was shared with the committee. Additional hours were added for the guidance counselors to complete the mandated 339 Plan and for the school nurses to implement the new state regulations for immunizations.

Field Trip Requests - none

Announcements - Wyomissing Area Mountain Bike Team will attend the June meeting to share programming information.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 5, 2017

Adjournment: 12:27pm

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Waller, Assistant Superintendent