

Curriculum Committee Minutes

April 10, 2017

5:00 pm

Members Present: Tiffany Larson, Rick Parks, Jeanne-marie Ciriacks, Erik Olson

Others Present: Monte Schmiede, Jason Levash, John Esser, Shannon Barraza, Matt Wanie

Meeting was called to order by Rick Parks at 5:00 pm

Youth Options Requests for Fall Semester 2017-18

Youth Options courses have been selected by East and West High School students for the fall semester of 2017-18. Two times per year students are legally eligible to submit applications for Youth Options courses. The courses that meet the requirement of having less than an 80% match must be approved. The Board does not have the latitude to not approve courses that meet the criteria. Board policy 343.42 also outlines the criteria to determine if a student is in good academic standing. A student is not in good academic standing if they are credit-deficient or at risk, have a cumulative grade point (GPA) average below 2.0 or failed a course in the semester prior to making the youth options request.

The total submitted requests for tuition and books for fall 2017, for both high schools, is currently \$79,362.03. This includes \$49,104.48 in tuition to college and universities and \$25,157.55 in tuition to technical colleges and a budget of \$5,100 for books. Students typically apply for more courses than they can actually schedule, therefore the final total will be less than this amount. The requests are dramatically up for fall 2017, in part due to this being the first group of students that were eligible in 8th grade to take High School courses for credit and also our counselors are better informing our students of their opportunities. If the trend of requests continues to increase, the District will need to increase their budget for Youth Options courses.

Of the 80 students that requested courses for the fall semester, 33 students selected the nursing assistant course. The nursing assistant course continues to be the most requested youth options course. There is no reduction in the cost for the district, with the nursing assistant course being offered on site at the high school. Seven students have had their request denied because a course they requested is an 80% match of a course that we currently offer at the high school and two students were denied because they had a failing grade in the prior term.

AP Course enrollment at the High School continues to be strong even with more students taking advantage of the courses through Youth Options.

As part of the 2017-19 Governor's budget request at the state level, there has been recommended modifications to the youth and course options programs. The Governor has proposed combining the Course Options and Youth Options programs into a single program called Early College credit. This would be done by reverting the Course Options back to Part-Time Open Enrollment and revising Youth Options into Early College Credit.

The proposed changes for Course Options to Part-time Open Enrollment would primarily revert the statute to language that existed prior to Course Options. This statute would allow Wisconsin public high school students to take up to two courses at a time in other Wisconsin public school districts. It would no longer facilitate taking courses at colleges, universities, 2nd charters, or nonprofit organizations. It would also not facilitate students in elementary or middle school taking courses in another district.

Youth Options to Early College Credit would retain much of the application process from Youth Options while adding some aspects of Course Options and also changing the cost structure. In addition, state funding is being proposed to help districts cover the costs of students using the program.

The Youth Options request for fall 2017 will move to Full Board for approval on April 24, 2017.

Education for Employment Plan

The Education for Employment was established in 1985 in response to the growing concern over the number of youth who failed to make a successful transition from school to postsecondary endeavors. s. 121.02 (1)(m), Wis. Stats., states that every school board shall provide access to an Education for Employment program. Chapter PI26, the administrative rule for this program, was revised and became effective on July 1, 2004. The last Education for Employment plan was approved by the Board in August of 2009. With the addition of the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) elements to the rule, the rule now includes the following: added ACP services to students in grades 6-12 beginning in fall 2017, development of a long-range plan with school district staff and community stakeholders, publishing the plan on the school district's website and reviewing the plan yearly.

The Education for Employment Plan will address the following: local, regional, and state labor market needs; education and training requirements for occupations that will fill labor market needs; a process to engage parents regarding ACP services provided and opportunities to participate; description of career and technical education (CTE) programming available, staff professional development for ACP delivery, and how the school district will meet education for employment program requirements; a strategy to engage business, postsecondary education, and workforce development.

Feedback was sought from the Curriculum Committee on ideas to explore before the plan will be finalized and brought back to the Board for approval. Suggestions from the Committee included an outreach to local stakeholders on the skills needed for current and future jobs within our community, having more opportunities for exposure to different careers for students and how would we define success of the Education for Employment Plan.

The District ACP team will continue to meet to prepare a plan that includes stakeholder feedback and present it to the Board for approval in June.

Science Goal Team Update

The Curriculum Committee received an update on the district's K-12 science curriculum and the work of the science goal teams from Matt Wanie, West High School Science teacher and 5-12 science curriculum goal team leader; Shannon Barraza, fourth grade McLane teacher and K-4 science curriculum goal team leader, and John Esser, math and science learning specialist.

Grades K-4 use the FOSS Science program. Each grade level studies three different science units throughout the year. The FOSS science program is hands-on based curriculum, engaging the students through many investigations and interpretations of the results. Grades 5, 6 and 7 are using the SEPUP science program, each grade focuses on a different strand: grade 5- Earth Science, grade 6- Life Science and grade 7-Physical Science. Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses are taught for grade 8 science. All high school students are required to have 3 credits of science to graduate. Incoming 9th graders are required to take Biology and are placed in Core, Regular or Honors based on test scores and 10th graders are required to take Chemistry. Many elective opportunities are available for students in grades 11-12 that allow them to full fill their graduation credits and post-secondary interests.

There are two science curriculum goal teams in the district, a K-4 team and a 5-12 team. The teams have been regularly meeting since the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year with a purpose to continuously improve curriculum, instruction and assessment by providing strategic and systematic direction, decisions, and action plans. The team includes membership from all levels and program strands. The teams have been tasked with the following:

- Implement the curriculum development and audit cycle (CDAC)
- Develop a strategic plan for the content area using the systems approach to continuous improvement framework
- Deploy the Process for Communication Improvements and/or Instruction in their content area
- Develop, deploy and monitor curriculum improvement projects in the content area
- Continuously review and vet instructional and learning strategies that can be deployed in the content area
- Provide input on the professional development needed to ensure student growth and achievement
- Communicate with all members in the content area the work of the district curriculum goal team and solicit feedback when necessary
- Ensure that Build Your Own Curriculum accurately reflects the curriculum of the content area

Each team has been working throughout the year to set direction for their respective grade levels and program strands by listening and learning from each other, so all team members have an understanding of the vertical scope and sequence of the district, which enables all levels the opportunity to support each other. In addition, the teams have focused on developing their professional knowledge on the field of science education and its application in the science classroom. The teams are preparing for the fall of 2017 when they will implement the curriculum development and audit cycle K-12

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.