

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 a.m.

September 11, 2014

District Office

Members Present: Markus Ladd, Stuart Long, Robert Runge

Others Present: Louise Blankenheim, Deb Sixel, Dawn Mueller, Sheila Lefebber

Call to Order On Motion of Member Runge, seconded by Member Ladd, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

District Curricula and Assessments Dr. Sixel asked committee members to provide a specific list of discussion items for future agendas. Member Runge requested the meeting seeking an overview of the curricula review process, new curricula, along with how it is measured and delivered in the classrooms. With the broadness of this request Dr. Blankenheim asked Dr. Sixel and Mrs. Mueller to provide an overview of curricula revisions, processes, and assessments

Member Runge is seeking more information relating to math and reading; specifically, looking at curricula for progression to the next level and is the dollars being spent on curriculum a good buy?

Dr. Sixel reviewed the current curriculum proposal process (see handout) noting it is a district-wide systematic process. She also provided an overview on BYOC (Build Your Own Curriculum). Member Runge inquired about flexibility within the curriculum and is it above all other standards? Dr. Sixel shared that staff will provide enrichment to standards if students are getting the curriculum. She also referenced how assessments guide the curriculum. Dr. Blankenheim outlined the 4 questions from PLC "Professional Learning Communities":

- 1) What do we expect our students to learn?
- 2) How will we know they are learning?
- 3) How will we respond when they don't learn? (ie. intervention, modified instruction, etc.)
- 4) How will we respond if they already know it? (ie. gifted, enrichment, etc.)

Mrs. Mueller shared that as a district we have a lot of knowledge, now we need to start doing. Need to assess the data to make sure that what we're doing is working. This is a cultural shift and staff is all over the spectrum on their willingness to change.

Does Educator Effectiveness impact teacher assessments and does it measure what we're looking for? Dr. Sixel explained the integration of Educator Effectiveness, standards, and student learning. Need to stop saying "Don't know" and need to "start doing". There are some issues with assessments and common assessments, which are currently being addressed by a group of teachers who are most knowledgeable in the common assessments area. They will develop, model and share with staff.

Briefly discussed how to engage students in the classroom. The Danielson model addresses this. Need to focus on those doing it right and highlight during PLC time.

Dr. Sixel reviewed the Balanced Assessment System (see handout). What happens if standard not meet at end of lesson and how is feedback provided to the parents? Teachers learn to develop assessments to show measureable results. Information is shared with parents at conferences, via Parent Access, emails, results sent home, etc. Concerns were shared about keeping things at a local level, mandates versus local assessments.

Dr. Sixel provided an overview of state required assessments (see handout). Below is a brief explanation of each assessment:

**PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening)** – Grades 4K-2 and is administered by the teacher. It takes approximately 30 minutes/students.

**WKCE/WAA** – Grades 4, 8, 10 complete this test for science and social studies. It takes approximately 180 minutes/student.

**SmarterBalance** – Grades 3-8 in math and reading. Test is based on standards and 2014-15 is first year of implementation. This is an online assessment and takes approximately 4 hrs/students for language arts and 3 hours/student for math. KASD was part of the field test and following testing students and teachers were surveyed for feedback. The data from this test will be used in the School Report Card. Practice tests are available. It is a critical/higher thinking skills test. Current results show some good areas and some weak areas. An update on the school report card will be given at a future board meeting. The committee discussed the need for the Board to better understand so they can support administration.

**ACT Aspire Suite** – 9<sup>th</sup> graders tested in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. 10<sup>th</sup> graders tested in Spring 2015. This replaces Plan and Explore. Students in grade 11 will be able to take the ACT test at no cost if district becomes a certified site. The district is currently seeking certification, but not all information is available at this time.

**ELL's (English Language Learners)** – This is a test administered to our ELL students by our ELL teacher.

**Dynamic Learning Maps** – These tests are administered to cognitively disabled students. This is in place of SmarterBalance and ACT Aspire for these students.

**NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)** – Districts' are randomly selected for this test. Results are part of the National Report Card.

Mrs. Mueller reviewed the local assessments used by the District (see handout):

**IGDI (Individual Growth and Development Indicators)** – Is administered 3 times/yr to 4K students.

**AIMSweb** – This test checks for oral reading fluency and math computation. It is given to students in grades K-4 three times/year.

**STAR** – This tests students in grades 1-12 in reading and math. Test is administered 3 times/year.

Results of these tests provide immediate feedback to teachers, students and parents. The results of these assessments are also discussed during PLC team time in addition to other classroom assessments.

Mrs. Mueller provided a special ed overview and the impact on data-based decision making. Rtl (Response to Intervention) now drives the need for special ed referrals. It creates needed changes to the instructional model and not all are happy about these changes.

Future Meetings

The consensus of the committee was to schedule regular monthly meetings approximately 1-1/2 hours. All agenda items should be forwarded to Sheila. Minutes will be distributed to all committee members for feedback within 3 days. The next agenda will focus on Professional Learning Communities and reading. Future agendas items will consist of math, science, etc.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

On Motion of Member Long seconded Member Ladd, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.