

School District of Beloit
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Kolak Education Center—Room 106

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting was called to order by Kris Klobucar at 4:15 p.m.

Committee members present: Pam Charles, Laurie Endres and Kris Klobucar.

Also present: Dennis Baskin(5:10), Shelly Cronin, Wendy Sanchez(5:47), Anthony Bonds, Tony Bosco, Charo Chaney, and Darrell Williams.

2. Approval of Agenda

Klobucar moved to table the Human Growth and Development Committee Approval agenda item. Seconded by Charles. Motion carried 3-0. Klobucar moved the Weighted Grade presentation before the Avid presentation on the agenda. Charles seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Approval of January 2018 Meeting Minutes

Klobucar moved approval of the January, 2018 minutes. Charles seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Appoint Committee Vice Chair

Klobucar appointed Charles to serve as the committee vice chair.

5. Data Reports (no report this month)

There was no report this month.

6. Achievement Gap Efforts

AVID Update and Expansion

Jacqueline Jolly along with Jaymee Thompson, Asst. Principal, instructors and a student presented on the AVID update and expansion. They discussed WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading), AVID elective courses, AVID student ambassadors, AVID elective teachers and tutors. Thompson reviewed the data including successes and challenges. She also shared GPA data for the AVID students. She also indicated that the plan for next year is to expand into 8th grade and 10th grade. She shared the ideal plan to roll out becoming an AVID district by 2021-2022. The idea is to go slow enough so that it is successful.

The student shared items that she likes about AVID such as the writing. TRS (tutorial request form) was a challenge for her in the beginning however it's gotten easier and she is use to doing them so they aren't so bad anymore. AVID has made her more organized and helped her keep her grades up with her transition from 8th to 9th grade. She would tell other students to do it because it has been helpful to her.

Endres asked how it will fit into the academies. The instructor indicated that the academies are the "what you are doing" and AVID is the "how you are doing it." Charles asked what speakers they have had coming which included recent grads, college professors or college admissions officers, and business people. Another Klobucar question was how students are chosen. Jolly indicated that information is received from Skyward, data is streamlined, teachers can recommend, however, it is a student's choice whether or not they join. It was also asked why expand now? Bonds indicated that there is an urgency due to the academic needs. High school staff is already trained and will be trainers for other staff. Funding is available in this year's budget for the expansion needs. Klobucar inquired about the parental component. An instructor indicated that there are things they are doing including parent workshops, with plans to hold more next year.

Endres moved approval to the full Board of Education of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) implementation. Seconded by Klobucar. Motion carried 3-0.

Math Programming Update

Bonds reminded the committee members about the changes in Math last year and aligning the math

programming from elementary to high school. Bonds also explained that many students take math in first semester one year and then not again until second semester of the next year. Bonds briefly reviewed the rationale and the benefits of the course changes such as smaller class sizes, differentiation for students, continuous math instruction and more students taking ACT core.

Jolly indicated that grading needs to be consistent, supplemental instruction with African American mentors, afterschool support with Title 1 funds, meeting with parents to assist them with helping their students, getting rid of Odyssey which has not been helping students in summer school but focusing on the Math skills that students need.

Deb Prowse, instructor indicated students are coming from 8th grade without the preparation they need for Math at the high school levels. She feels that there is a systemic problem especially in the past where Math did not build from elementary to high school like it will starting now.

Jolly also stated that this is the first year of the new curriculum K-12 and they are finding gaps so they are putting interventions in place as well as supports for the 4th and 5th grade students where some of the largest gaps are because the curriculum changed significantly.

Baskin would like to have this item brought back to the full Board of Education. He would like to see the systemic problem Prowse addressed re-examined by the administration.

Klobucar indicated that she sees a long-term system in place, but there does not seem to be short term solutions, enough money and resources in place to help the students who need the help now.

Prowse feels that some of the problem is that kids are moving forward in lower grade levels when they should not be moving forward and the board wants students to move yet meet certain standards and it cannot always be both.

Endres made a recommendation to bring it back with what resources do you have, do you need and how can the board help. What creative things can be done with different resources, people, etc.

This item was for information only. No action was taken.

Weighted Grades

Bonds introduced the weighted grades topic as well as Carole Campbell, High School Principal, Charo Chaney, TLI Director of Data, Assessment and Professional Development, and Matt Flynn, AP Instructor. Flynn did a blind survey of the 20 AP teachers at BMHS and all were in favor of weighted grades. He then shared the information with Campbell and Bonds. He also contacted four colleges in state like Whitewater, Marquette, Beloit College and one other to get their response to using weighted grades. Campbell shared that one of the top reasons students don't take AP classes is that they don't want to ruin their grade point average.

Committee members asked questions about transcripts, pros/cons, making sure kids understand what colleges will do with grades, valedictorian and salutatorian, consider what makes a student ready for AP classes and making that known to students and families, graduating with honors and what that means, i.e., just GPA or other areas considered as well.

Klobucar moved to recommend approval to the full Board of Education the creation of a weighted grading system to the high school grading scale for AP courses. Endres seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Human Growth and Development Committee Approval

This item was tabled. See motion above.

7. Academic Achievement Ad Hoc Committee Update

Bonds provided a brief update of the work of the Academic Achievement Ad Hoc Committee.

8. Future Agenda Items

Second Step - Child Protective Unit (March)
Math Curriculum Workshop

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.