

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 17
CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., ***CENTRAL OFFICE***

Minutes taken by: Cindy Fetteroll

Members in attendance: Gary Mala, Eric Larson, Mike Susi, Charlie Macunas, John O’Leary, Eileen Blewett, Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Mindy Otis, Lewis Traester, Corey Borzain, Maryann Grimaldi, Lori Raczka, Debbi White, Melissa Steinhilper, Eileen Mills, Colleen Fitzpatrick

The meeting began at 3:30p.m.

ITEM

PRESENTER

08-34 Introductions

All

**08-35 Presentations
Naviance Software**

Maryann Grimaldi

Maryann provided a handout and reviewed the request by the HKHS Guidance Department to purchase Naviance Software. She stated that one of the biggest differences and benefit to its use is the fact that parents of students can use it at home. The High School currently uses the ‘Discover’ software. The cost of purchasing the Naviance Software is approximately \$2000. Maryann also stated that the “Do what you are” program can be added to Naviance, and that program is a wonderful tool for the students and the Guidance department to use with students to aid in career path choices...Maryann reported that the students will be taking part in a Career Fair at Wesleyan in April 30th...Discussion ensued about the benefit of H-K being part of the Middlesex Area Consortium. Gary stated that he would ask Ginnie Secombe, Executive Director at LEARN, if we can benefit from their purchase power. Maryann stated that the relationship with Shoreline Guidance was not beneficial.

Maryann stated that HKHS Guidance proposal for implementation of use of Naviance Software would begin next year. Gary asked several questions, including; what is their annual year, is there any benefit for our younger students, and is the data stored on their server, or do we store the data on our server? Maryann stated that she had hoped to have more of these answers before this meeting of the curriculum council; however the recent program by Naviance was cancelled due to bad weather.

Grade Point Average System @ HKHS

Maryann Grimaldi

Maryann stated that currently the high school uses a 21-point scale when calculating GPA, but that the number is not actually attainable. Maryann reported that the highest a student has received to date is approximately a 17.3. Maryann reported that most colleges do not understand our GPA, and that there are frequent calls to guidance from colleges asking for a clearer explanation of our GPA, or many colleges simply recalculate for us...even though a conversion is done and sent with our student applications. Maryann stated that most colleges would like us to move to a 4.0 scale. Maryann stated that it would be to our student’s advantage to move to a 4.0 GPA system for obvious reasons.

In response to a question from Eric Larson, Maryann stated that although the decision to move to a 21-point scale was made before her employment at HK, it was probably done to present a more accurate weight of a student’s average. Discussion ensued regarding the validity of that reasoning as the 4.0 is quite accurate.

A lively discussion ensued about the importance of our marketing of information both to colleges and to our students involved in the college selection process. Gary stated that the curriculum council would like to see some concrete proposals of action plans in the near future.

08-36

Status of HKMS Schedule

Mike Susi

Mike stated that the Middle School is currently taking steps to change the student rotating schedule, and implement a more standard schedule with 44 minutes of class time, and is planning to present this proposal to Curriculum Council in April. Mike stated that most of this work was done last year, and that at this point they are fine-tuning their plans. Mike reported that there would be no impact to staffing.

08-37

Status of HKHS Schedule

Charlie Macunas

Charlie presented a proposal for an HKHS class schedule change for the 2009-2010 school year. Among some of the rationale for change were:
Current course sequencing, especially in math and world language can create retention problems. Attention spans are not well suited for current class length. Students have a difficult time catching up from extended absences. There is no room in a schedule for an advisory time. There is difficulty in scheduling courses as there are only 4 slots available. All special programs come from class time. There is no department head release time. There is an overall feeling of being rushed.

The three types of schedules being considered are:

- Traditional 6 or 7 period day.
- 7 period drop.
- Hybrid of Block

Charlie presented an analysis of research on block scheduling and discussed possible results of what a change in the schedule would provide.

Charlie reviewed action plans, which have taken place to date, and some of the action plans that are yet to take place such as:

- Receive feedback from the staff on the three current scheduling options.
- Examine how the schedule will impact space and resources.
- Work with departments to establish both full year and half year courses.
- Develop a time line for changes.
- Presentation to the Board of Education.

08-38

Task Force Updates & Timeline for 2007-2008

All

a. District Assessment: Eric Larson, Chair

Eric reviewed the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd with an outside consultant to review the DIBELS progress monitoring/universal assessment tool. Discussion relevant to the mission of the Assessment committee was reviewed. Eric stated that a comprehensive assessment plan was not CMT or CAPT driven but instead is used for changing instruction within our own district. Gary stated that this assessment is fundamental to accurately assess our students; it will be the tool measuring effectiveness and the impact of our instructions.

b. World Languages: Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Patty Muzzulin, Kerri-Lynn Fabelle, Corey Borzain, Chairs

Corey reported that many courses, including Latin I Honors, are completed, and others are nearing completion. Corey stated that the work was difficult and sometimes exhausting, but that it is all pulling together, and that the process was a good one.

c. Social Studies K-12: Kathleen Mozak-Pezza, Patty Muzzulin, Kerri-Lynn Faselle, Lew Traester, Chairs

Kerri-Lynn reported that next year would begin the second cycle of the process, and also provided a draft for the curricula for the elementary schools. Lew reported that the committee has nearly completed their work with World History, but they are working on revising the entire U.S. History curricula.

d. Comprehensive School Counseling: Mindy Otis, Chair

Mindy stated that she is looking for volunteers to participate in curriculum mapping for the elementary school counselor position, and that the next meetings are scheduled for March 17 and 31st at 3:00 in Mindy's office.

e. Full Day Kindergarten Task Force: Kerrie-Lynn Faselle, Rita Peretto, Chair

Kerri-Lynn reported that she is very happy with the changes taking place in each school's kindergarten classes. She is happy to report that Kindergarteners are actually reading. Kerri-Lynn also reported that she had recently visited a pre-school run by Jo Ferjak, and that other teachers have visited as well. Kerri-Lynn stated that the goal is to work on our district's relationship with area pre-schools to more closely align our curricula. Kerri-Lynn was excited to see the work being done at Ms. Ferjak's pre-school, and reported on some of the activities that were taking place there.

f. Child Development Task Force: Chuck Lewis, Chair –

Gary stated that the Guidance secretaries have added these classes to schedules, and that currently there are enough students that have signed up for these courses to run four sections. Gary was very happy to relay this information.

g. Adult Care Task Force: Gary Mala

No report.

h. Robotics Task Force: Gary Mala

Gary stated that they are still desperately seeking someone to run this program. They are very anxious to get this program started, and to please help put the word out.

i. Alternative Education Program Task Force: Gary Mala

Gary reported that there were a couple of dates for meetings set for the next week all related to the work of the regional based alternative education program.

08-39 Question and Answer

The meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.

All

08-40 Next Meeting: March 11, 2008