

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 17
CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m., *CENTRAL OFFICE*

Minutes to be taken by: Pamela Hensel

Members in attendance: Gary Mala, Charles Lewis, Wendy Adamczyk, Sheila Ward, Eileen Blewett, Janet Kohm, Bryan Kerachsky, Pat Muzzulin, Charlie Macunas, Rita Peretto, Erika Fleig, Diane Stanley, Maryann Grimaldi, Corey Borzain, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Pamela Hensel, Miriam Wagner, Lori Raczka, Eric Larson

ITEM PRESENTER

10-37 Introductions Gary Mala

Old Business

10-38 HKHS *National Honor Society* admission criteria and schedule – ***Update*** Charles Macunas
Making two changes. First, we are going to have what will become a fall induction for students who were deferred in the spring. Second, we will check the grades at the end of student's junior year to see if they can meet the criteria. We plan to review and revise documents to create a new set of bylaws for the Honor Society. A luncheon to induct 5 new members in the Honor Society will be held on 12/14/09 in the Lower Media Center.

10-39 HKMS *Junior National Honor Society* admission criteria and Mim Wagner
Schedule – ***Update.***
Nothing new this time

10-40 Task Force to plan sponsoring annual *College Fair* at HKHS – ***Update*** Maryann Grimaldi
Requests for participation sent out to over 500 schools heard back from 20 who will participate. Reaching out to Alumni schools was suggested. College Fair will take place April 7th

10-41 Follow-up on tracking HKHS graduates - ***Update*** Maryann Grimaldi
Received a contract from the company, awaiting new person to contact us.

10-42 Task Force to research and present information on *Multi-age Instruction* and Bryan Kerachsky
Looping - ***Update*** Patty Muzzulin
Contacted 25-30 schools. Information is coming in.

10-42 Task Force to research and present information on *Algebra I* - ***Update*** Wendy Adamczyk
Bryan Kerachsky
Patty Muzzulin
Met and came up with a plan and are contacting other schools and researching data from other parts of the country.

10-43 *Response to Intervention* (RTI) Model & Timeline – ***Update*** Tracy Whaples
Not present.

New Business

10-44 Personal Finance All
Currently RSD17 is running 3 - ½ year courses in personal finance. Superintendent Mala asked if personal finance is an issue. Most committee members agreed that personal finance is relevant. College students are filing for bankruptcy because they don't understand credit terms. Many students don't grasp that credit comes at a cost. Most attendees agreed they would like to see students armed with personal finance information so they can better succeed when they graduate High School. Superintendent Mala asked, should we actively research, making personal finance a requirement? Wendy Adamczyk suggested that perhaps it could be added as a math credit, i.e. consumer math. Diane Stanley felt strongly that a business teacher should teach the finance course and it should be a graduation requirement. Discussion ensued regarding adding teachers or configuring

teaching differently. Do we exchange programs and create the course as an elective? Erika Fleig suggested we might want to partner with businesses. Banks have inquired as to whether we would want a bank in our schools. Superintendent Mala called for task force volunteers. He asked that people interested in participating email Pamela. There are dollars and curriculum out there to support this. The question of how many of our graduates are pursuing business was asked. Superintendent Mala indicated that the task force would look into that and gather the data. He further indicated that we will get some of that information once we have completed our follow up on our graduates.

10-45 Discussion of proposal to introduce *Child Development* as graduation requirement commencing in 2011-2012 – Gary Mala

It was remarked that 80% of our students will become parents. Superintendent Mala referred to the email of about 80 pages he emailed to the committee this morning. He voiced concerns about the denigration of the family structure. He further added that RSD17 did put Child Development back in the studies at the High School. This was done at approximately the same time as our day care center was opened. Superintendent Mala asked the following questions of the committee: Is there a genuine interest in adding this as a graduation requirement? Should we offer curriculum on this? He noted that currently it is not a requirement. Janet Kohm voiced her reservations on requiring Child Development as a graduation requirement. She began by noting that 20 % of our students may lack the maturity or desire to work with children. Janet suggested that perhaps allowing an option of health and/or child development as an elective. She also noted that although students today have a lot of communication devices, they lack basic communication skills. Lastly, she stated that the Child Care Center could not possibly accommodate all students going through the program if it were a graduation requirement.

It was remarked that due to the size of the day care center, the expectation was that not all students would go through. Ms. Kohm was asked how many kids that graduated have taken the course? Ms. Kohm responded, last year 6, this year 8, of which a third are boys.

Eileen Blewett stated she thinks Child Development should be required. She noted the environment and the conversations students are having from being in the class are real eye openers. Specifically, when they go out in public with the cyber babies, those are real conversation starters, and having the baby in the home is a huge dose of reality. Corey Borzain mentioned that students talk about how they've learned things. Students are in a real position to make decisions about how to handle their babies. Child care decision making, makes students think about how they will parent. How will they teach their children to speak? They learn so much and don't even have to be in the same room as children.

Chuck Lewis voiced his concern, asking at what point do we back up and let this fall to that parent's responsibility? Making this a graduation requirement at this point means that something else is going to give. Today's hard economic times have made it tough to add staff.

Maryann Grimaldi noted that years ago students had to take a computer class as a graduation requirement. Today there are 10 or 12 ways to reach the computer equivalency, personal enrichment, personal development etc.

Superintendent Mala noted that research (sent in the earlier email) shows that other states are adding courses like Child Development, Life Skills, and Family Living as a requirement for graduation.

Janet Kohm stated that 5 courses in Child Development are currently being offered, they are:

- (1) Infant and Toddler Growth & Development, which covers conception through pregnancy, birth, birth to 3 yrs. and adolescence including teen pregnancy.
- (2) Intro to child development 3 – 9 year olds.
- (3) & (4) Early Childhood in 2 groups – Infant and Toddler lab experience and Pre-school lab experience (these groups work in our day care center). Pre-requisites to these are courses number 1 and/or 2 depending on which early childhood course you choose.
- (5) Internship – where students go or and work in the community day care centers.

Closing questions and discussion included the following:

What are the outcomes and do they have longevity? What are the objectives? What is the impact?

Do we need a course? Seminars?

Could this be added to an advisory group at the High School?

Charlie indicated that the Advisory Program could be tweaked to address this need if desired. Furthermore, as an advisory all students would be exposed. An entire grade could be brought together to be taught this topic. We could limit the number of presenters and bring in people with expertise, and follow up with discussion groups for a few weeks after the seminar.

Superintendent Mala suggested further discussions could be held at our next meeting once all have had the chance to read the 80 pages emailed earlier.

Items to schedule for discussion at future meetings

- 10-46 Discussion of proposal to introduce *Internship* as graduation requirement commencing in 2011-2012
Superintendent Mala suggested that part of our responsibility is to get them out there. Demographics tell us that the average student today will make 5 -7 career changes in their life. Gary Mala
- 10-47 Question and Answer All
- 10-48 Next Meeting: January 12, 2010
a. *Alternative Education* Task Force Report Gary Mala