

Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2009

6:30-8:05 p.m.

Present: Michael Yates, Mee Yang, Laura Frink, Todd Durand, Vicky Schumann, Doug Austin, Aldo Cantellano, Rosaline Tsai, Julie Wikelius, Christine Neils, Gerald Kluthe, Penny Howard, Bill Nara, Dianne Brady, Jill Arendt, RoAnne Elliott, Tina Tanner, Lindsey Boumgarden

World Language Update from Tina Tanner (World Language Contact Teacher)

Chinese at the high schools is going well; Sherri Westra is teaching at both MV and ID where a total of approximately 55 students are registered. The new French teacher at ID and is doing a great job. The District is offering 5 languages: Spanish, French, German, Chinese, and American Sign Language. Spanish is being offered to 6-8 graders--6th and 7th graders receive one quarter of instruction and 8th graders receive an entire semester. Elementary has Spanish instruction in 4th and 5th grades where there are 8 Spanish teachers at this level. All levels have or are working on common assessments for Spanish. The Spanish teachers are meeting as a team on a regular basis. Curriculum needs will be “rewritten” for the next 5 years as students have more years of experience.

CAC member comments:

- Sherri, Chinese teacher, is very motivating and accommodating
- Parents are happy with the addition of Spanish in 4th-8th grades
- No placement in middle school, all students receive the same instruction

The committee was fortunate enough to be presented with a lesson from Lindsey Boumgarden (5th Grade Spanish teacher at VH). She was very motivating and fun to watch. She stated that the goal for elementary Spanish is to have each lesson contain reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Her students are so engaged during instruction you could hear a pin drop. Assessments are consistent across all elementary buildings, but the activities are not.

Social Studies is in curriculum review for this year. Work is being done on all levels-- instructional model, material, and scope and sequence. K-12 articulation is important in ensuring elementary students are well prepared for middle school and middle school students are fully prepared for high school. The committee has continually worked on Essential Skills: Literacy Skills and Research Skills for all students. At the elementary sites the standards are being covered. Some refinement has to take place and not all “pet projects” will still exist.

AYP Update

Districts in the State of Minnesota are required to be 100% proficient by 2014. This information needs to be reported to the state yearly. Overall, Mounds View is doing well. We had some sub-groups not meet the proficiency goal. A sub-committee has been put in place to weigh in and have discussions so all students do well. Key message: We have already set up systems that really allow us to know where our kids are: standards and assessment. We continue to look for growth toward proficiency.

A discussion of topics for the 2009-2010 CAC took place. Some ideas are:

- Minnesota Student Survey-Health
- Science, new standards
- More specifics in Social Studies
- Addressing why test scores go down and peak
- Assessment questions—invite Mary Roden
- Transitions from Elementary to Middle School and Middle School to High School
- ELL
- Alternative schools
- PLPs

Next meeting: December 7, 2009, 6:30-8:00 p.m.