



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

OCTOBER 15, 2009

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

ROOM 240

MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Barbara Bettis, Jan Booth, Mike Demovsky, Chris Dennison, Heather Fodor, Maryellyn Friel, Heather Hunt, Doug Johnson, Julie Kallenbach, Kathy Megan, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Michelle Rogers Besch, Ryan Sims, Lavonne Smiley, Rosa Syphers, Pamela Tonyan, Kathleen Turnquist, Renee Zabel, Lynn Glaser

Observers: Lisa Whitmer

Guests:

Presenters: Nan Ochs, Tim Gilbert, Jan Booth, Heather Hunt, Michelle Besch, Mary Esdorn, Joel Bez, Jim Fash, Richard Johnson, Chris La Rue, Debby Fralick, Kimberly Hawley, Lorelei Keltner, Gary Cotie

Approval of September 17, 2009 – A motion was made by Chris Dennison seconded by Michelle Besch to approve the September 17, 2009 Instructional Council Minutes, motion carried.

I. Initial Presentations

- A. Differentiate Curriculum and Materials for Elementary Gifted Language Arts (SWAS, SET SWAS Grades 4-6) – Nan Ochs, Heather Hunt, Jan Booth, Tim Gilbert presenting. The Gifted Program audit that was done in 2007 recommended implementation of a more advanced curriculum and materials to match the instructional needs of identified gifted students. Within our school district there are five elementary sites with School within a School (SWAS) or Spanish-English Transition School within a School (SET SWAS) programs. The materials requested are geared to higher thinking skills and are content appropriate. Making Meaning materials are not challenging enough for the students in SWAS. This proposal is deemed necessary to have consistency across the district enabling teachers to better monitor this program. Junior Great Books, a component of the materials request, aligns with the materials in the Making Meaning program. It was noted that the Being a Writer initiative lends itself to this curriculum. A council member suggested that a list of the books being proposed be made available to general education teachers to support students that are at a higher level, however, did not qualify for the SWAS program. It was stated that rigor is not limited to SWAS programs.

- B. Advanced Placement Psychology – Michael Demovsky, Michelle Besch, Joel Bez and Mary Esdorn presenting. The purpose of this proposal is to offer students a year long Advanced Placement Psychology course within the Social Studies curriculum, with implementation in 2010-2011. This course would be added to all five comprehensive high schools and would replace the current semester-long Honors Psychology course. The current semester-long course does not provide adequate instructional time to cover the content area and prepare students who wish to participate in the AP exam. Students are requesting this course and the AP Psychology exam has the second highest number of students participating. There is a need to increase AP offerings – AP courses potentially can count for college credit when students take the AP exam. It was noted that there will still be Intro to Psychology.

- C. Advanced Placement Art History - Nan Ochs and Christine LaRue presenting. Currently there are five AP Art History courses listed with the College Board – U-46 does not offer any. This course is being requested as an addition at Elgin High School for implementation in the 2010-2011 school year. This course could be added at all five comprehensive high schools. The prerequisites for this course were questioned. The presenter expressed concern about overwhelming the students. It was suggested that perhaps teacher recommendation and English and World History scores be considered for students who have not had the currently listed prerequisite courses in this proposal in order to open the class to all students. It was also suggested that the other high schools be canvassed for interest in offering this course rather than just one high school. There is an interest; however, teachers need to go through the AP Course Audit process. One council member felt that some of the materials were outdated and another questioned if the material in the one textbook could be purchased in a few smaller books in hardcover rather than the paperback version that was presented. It was felt that the paperback books would probably not stand the test of time.

A suggestion was made to go big and present the cost for offering this course at all high schools. It was also suggested that perhaps this could be a pilot program for one year so that the presenting teacher would not be held back. Council would also like to see a more accurate cost for inclusion of other high schools and teacher training.

- D. Addition of Mandarin Language at World Languages and International Studies Academy - SHS – Nan Ochs and Debby Fralick presenting. At the academy's inception, three foreign languages were offered – Japanese, German and Spanish. German was dropped due to budget cuts. In light of China being seen as a global power with its rapidly growing economy, the modernizing military, and its cultural influence it is felt that the addition of Mandarin to the WLIS Academy would be beneficial. There are currently two or three teachers in U-46 who are qualified to teach this language. This proposal does utilize consumables (workbooks) every year. A council member questioned why German isn't being brought back and the presenter stated that there are very few German companies available in order to develop school-business partnerships and there was a low enrollment, however, German is still available in the comprehensive high school.

II. Action Items

- A. Unique Learning System – Linda Koch, Lashawn Lomax and Kimberly Hawley presenting. There was much discussion regarding the availability of this program to regular teachers with identified special needs students who are in regular classrooms. This program is designed for students with mild to severe cognitive disabilities in self-contained classrooms. A question was raised as to whether or not the materials would be available for resource teachers. Again, at this time, it is cost prohibitive because a site license needs to be purchased for the teachers that will be using this program. A suggestion was made that perhaps the information in the program could somehow be shared so that teachers who have a student with cognitive disabilities are able to contact self-contained teachers for help and resources to assist these students. Again, it was reinforced that at this time, the program was intended for self-contained classroom teachers.

A council member recommended that the timeline in the proposal be changed due to the fact that we are well past the original hope of implementation. A suggestion was made that the cost of the curriculum be clarified. The Unique Learning System provides new curriculum in three year rotations – that is what the total cost of the proposal indicates.

Julie Kallenbach motioned to approve the Unique Learning System proposal, seconded by Jennifer McDonnell. Discussion followed. Many council members again expressed their concerns as to how this material was going to be shared with General Education teachers. A friendly amendment was made by Maryellyn Friel recommending that the SEC chair investigate ways to identify teachers with students who could benefit from this program. Vote was taken and motion carried to approve curriculum.

- B. Civil Engineering and Architecture, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course – Lorelei Keltner and Gary Cotie presenting. A council member indicated that Bartlett Academy be changed to Bartlett High School. A clearer picture of the equipment and supplies was asked for. Heather Hunt motioned to approve proposal, Jan Booth seconded, motion carried.
- C. Computer Integrated Manufacturing, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course - Lorelei Keltner and Gary Cotie presenting. A council member indicated that Bartlett Academy be changed to Bartlett High School. A clearer picture of the equipment and supplies was asked for. Jan Booth motioned to approve proposal, Wendy Molof seconded, motion carried.

III. Information Items

None

IV. Dialogue Topic

None

V. Other

- A. Review of July Minutes – The minutes were reviewed. The Language Arts curriculum at Middle School did not pass, and the Chair clarified that the curriculum for Middle School is a Developing Curriculum. Council would like to have an update when there is a complete curriculum.
- B. Elementary Report Card Committee – The Chair contacted Dr. Carmen Rodriguez regarding the status of the formation of this committee. Dr. Rodriguez had to leave on a family emergency and will work on setting up the committee upon her return.
- C. Wrap Up - The Chair informed Council that Dr. Torres would like a Board of Education presentation on Monday, October 26, 2009. All of council are invited to attend and would like to make sure that we have representatives from Elementary, Middle School and High School. The Chair will show a presentation on how Instructional Council ties into the District Improvement Plan.

A council member asked how we not lose the work that has been done if something is tabled. How long do we table something? What about new editions to textbooks and pricing from when original presentation was made.

Updates:

Avid
M.S. Foreign Language
State of Technology
7 – 12 Language Arts
K-6 Writing Curriculum

The Chair thanked council for the quality of the questions they ask and also thanked the members responsible for providing refreshments.