



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

APRIL 15, 2010
8:30 AM – 2:00 PM
ROOM 240

MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Barb Bettis, Jan Booth, Lori Brandes, Susan Collins, Suzanne Colombe, Mike Demovsky, Chris Dennison, Heather Fodor, Marellyn Friel, Doug Johnson, Julie Kallenbach, Denise Lockwald, Kathy Magan, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Sahar Nammari, Michelle Rogers Besch, Lavonne Smiley, Nan Strohmaier, Rosa Syphers, Katie Thomson, Pamela Tonyan, Kathleen Turnquist, Lynn Glaser

Observers: Lisa Whitmer

Guests:

Presenters: Carol DePue, Joe Sieczkowski, Gary Coti, Stephen Buchs, Diane Kriesher, Susan Ali, and Carmen Rodriguez

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. The March 18, 2010 minutes were reviewed, Michelle Rogers Besch motioned to approve minutes with a second from Katie Thomson, motion carried, minutes will be posted on website.

I. Initial Presentations

- A. Honors Project Lead the Way (PLTW) - Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE), Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM), Digital Electronics (DE), Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), and Engineering Design and Development (EDD) – Carol DePue, Joe Sieczkowski, Gary Coti, Stephen Buchs, and Diane Kriescher presenting.** Each course focuses on rigorous learning opportunities that enable students to develop specific career related skills while strengthening their math and literacy. Colleges support the level of student achievement in these courses through partnerships that provide articulated credit. There is a need to designate honors credit to acknowledge the achievement level demanded in PLTW courses and the opportunities it affords students. Students achieving an A or B in the class will receive honors credit if they take the test given by PLTW. Students achieving a lower grade will receive regular credit. A question arose as to why these courses couldn't be AP. These courses are not developed by the AP Board; therefore AP credit cannot be offered.
- B. Instructional Supplemental Materials for Grades K-6 – Susan Ali and Carmen Rodriguez presenting.** Since 2006, the district median Measure of Academic Progress score in grades 2nd – 6th for the sub goal area Word Analysis and Vocabulary continues to be the lowest in comparison to Reading Strategies, Literature and Literary Works. A CORE literacy audit indicated that more instructional time needs to be spent in developing the requisite skills for word

analysis (i.e., phonics and phonemic awareness) to develop reading proficiency in students.

The proposed materials are recommended for purchase as supplemental instructional resources for general education and English Language Learners for word analysis instruction in grades K-6th.

The presenters requested that this proposal be moved to action at this meeting to enable the district to purchase the requested materials with grant funds received for this year that must be expended by June 30, 2010.

Susan Collins motioned to move proposal to action, Barb Bettis seconded, motion carried.

Julie Kallenbach moved that Instructional Council recommend the proposed materials to the Superintendent for purchase as supplemental instructional resources for general education and English Language Learners for word analysis instruction in grades K-6th, second by Katie Thomson, motion carried.

II. Action Items

- A. PLTW Digital Electronics (DE) – A council member wanted to be sure that the proposal stated that this course would be offered at all five (5) comprehensive high schools (course currently being taught at BHS Academy). Susan Collins moved that Instructional Council recommend approval of this proposal to the Superintendent, Doug Johnson seconded, motion carried.
- B. PLTW Principles Of Engineering (POE) – A council member wanted to be sure that the proposal stated that this course would be offered at all five (5) comprehensive high schools (course currently being taught at BHS Academy). Susan Collins moved that Instructional Council recommend approval of this proposal to the Superintendent, Doug Johnson seconded, motion carried.
- C. PLTW Gateway to Technology Program – M.S. - Over the next two years, Design & Modeling for 7th and 8th grade will be introduced during the 2010-2011 school year and Automation & Robotics for 8th grade during the 2011-2012 year at which time Design & Modeling will become 7th grade only. This rotation course will be offered at Canton and Tefft Middle Schools. Doug Johnson moved that Instructional Council recommend approval of this proposal to the Superintendent, Michelle Rogers Besch seconded, and motion carried.

II. Information Items

- A. Elementary Literacy Curriculum Roadmap Update – Susan Ali presenting. Dr. Ali gave a power point presentation highlighting the U-46 Literacy Curriculum Roadmap and the PreK-6th Balanced Literacy Framework. Dr. Ali articulated the district challenge to develop a more specific framework based on the U-46 Curriculum Roadmap and available resources to help teachers inform their instruction, plan and implement more effective instruction. Dr. Ali shared next steps based on data, the CORE literacy audit and teacher input. Like the Curriculum Roadmap, the PreK-6 Balanced Literacy Framework has been created to provide teachers with support and includes the most current research about best practice in literacy instruction. As a resource that is specific and teacher-friendly, the framework is divided into instructional blocks that outline the literacy block components and timeframes for each grade level. Resources and supplemental materials are also listed.

Grade level curriculum maps will be developed by teachers to specify the pacing of the literacy skills throughout the school year. A lesson plan template is provided for teachers to plan specific learning tasks for the students to address literacy objectives. Lessons are designed to meet the specific needs of the students in each class and may integrate a number of learning objectives to support students' progress toward benchmarks.

The plan is to continually evaluate and refine this document based on teacher input, use and its effectiveness to assist teachers in meeting the needs of U-46 students.

One council member expressed concerns she was hearing from fellow teachers that the principals need to acknowledge that this is a draft, a work in progress, and should not be used in an evaluative way.

Dr. Ali indicated that there would be professional development this spring and next fall around the PreK-6 Balanced Literacy Framework and the word analysis materials sited in the proposal to adopt instructional supplemental materials for Grades K-6.

- B. Secondary Language Arts Curriculum for Grades 7-8 and 9&12 – Susan Ali presenting. Much work has been done on these curricula to improve the format to make it more user friendly. Members of the committee have included suggested learning activities, an appendix, explanation of strategies, methods to teach the strategy, along with the improved format. The curriculum is intended to give support, not dictate what can and cannot be used. Teachers can use their own resources to customize lessons to their students. The district responsibility is to support teachers and provide adequate information.

The hope is to have a curriculum prepared for the May Instructional Council Meeting.

- C. AP Calculus and AP Physics Textbooks – Jennifer McDonnell presenting. The textbooks currently being used in these courses are outdated and out of print. The textbooks are no longer available from used textbook vendors. Upon discovering that these books cannot be ordered, a committee was formed with representation from each high school. Teachers were surveyed and the College Board website was visited for text recommendations. Presentations were scheduled with the publishers from the top three textbook recommendations. On April 19 and 20, each textbook will be presented to the committee of AP teachers. The textbook and materials will be judged based on a rubric that is being created by the teachers. It is the hope of the committee to come to Instruction Council in May with a proposal for action to purchase textbooks.
- D. District-Wide Interventions – Carla Cumblad presenting. The goal is to provide a comprehensive menu of effective interventions that can be used for different student needs in the schools. This set of interventions would be supported by the district with ongoing professional development and continued resource allocation.

Staff members across the district are working very hard to provide students in need of intervention with additional assistance. This assistance occurs at various times during the day, including before/after-school opportunities.

At the secondary level, interventions tend to be classes because of scheduling issues.

Many of the reported interventions are “teacher-made”, small group. No particular program was specified. Small group instruction was the highest reported intervention. These included items such as guided reading, after school, in-class, RIT band grouping, small group and others.

The plan is to host an “Intervention Open House” on April 27, 28, and 29. It would be open to any staff member interested in reviewing materials.

III. Dialogue Topic
None

IV. Other
Discussions regarding concerns with the Elementary Literacy Curriculum Roadmap have been included in the notes from the presentation.

Susan Collins motioned to adjourn at 2:20 pm, seconded by Denise Lockwald, motion carried.