

Minutes IC Meeting April 17, 2014

Meeting attendance: Barbara Bettis, Chris Bucchi, Cheryl DeRoo, Carl Draeger, Kathy Duchaj, Sara Elwood, Heather Fodor, Cyndee Fralick, Dominique Garcia, Raheem Hasan, Judy Havemann, Jackie Johnson, Carol Mammoser, Josefina Melendez, Lisa Olsem, Claudia Sanchez, Katie Stan, Wilma Valero, Esperanza Villareal-Ortiz, Rita Weber, Jennifer Williamson, Mary Wojtczak

Absent: Maria Aguiniga, Mark Atkins, William Jackson, Kelly O'Brien, Craig Pflueger

Guests/Observers:

April Minutes reviewed/revised and approved with – 22 yes, none opposed, none abstained

Proposed Changes to Contract Language

- At the next Instructional Council meeting there will be a proposal coming forward. This will require the Council to meet on May 27th at 4 PM to vote on that proposal.
- The new Council members for the 2014-2015 school year should be invited to our May meeting to view the Instructional Council process.

Initial Proposal Presentation

6-12 ELA

- The 6-12 ELA proposal is a two-phase proposal which addresses the immediate need to implement Common Core next school year.
- The 6-12 ELA curriculum writing committee consisted of representatives from each high school, middle school and 6th grade teachers.
- A Curriculum Gallery Walk was held at Kenyon Woods to gather feedback from teachers and administrators.
- Coursemason was used to design the curriculum. Coursemason has the ability to run reports district- wide.
- Coursemason identifies where a particular standard should be taught in the curriculum.
- Language Arts classes in grades 6-8 are currently labeled as *English*. It is recommended to change the class name instead to *Language Arts*.
- Phase 1 of the curriculum will focus on professional development for teachers. The thematic units will be explained to teachers. There are also standards that have to be taught all year long and teachers will be shown how to accomplish this.
- Phase 2 will be presented to Instructional Council in September 2014. Assessments will need to be piloted, a list of essential vocabulary will be created, and text selections will be provided.
- There will be a series of Summer Institutes for staff to attend. Then in August there will be an unpacking seminar for teachers in grades 6-12.

Council Questions:

- How did you determine the thematic units?
 - Various resources were looked at to help us decide on the thematic units. Additionally there have been themes in the past that teachers were already invested in, so we tweaked some of those. The theme is where all standards are brought together.
- Are we moving away from Spanish Heritage, Spanish I and II?
 - ISBE has new regulations which require all TBE in a full time program to have a Spanish Language Arts class. By law you have to provide native language instruction, so the goal is to have the Dual Language program from grades K-8. Those students have to take Spanish Heritage. Spanish Language Arts will only be offered for students in the Dual Language program. Spanish Heritage will become Spanish Language Arts.
- It's concerning not to have the frameworks or the assessments.
 - Coursemason instructs us to look first at the Standards before we get to write the assessments. Although the assessments have not been written, they have been identified. The assessments will be written over the summer with a template and a rubric.
- Coursemason is not a well-known program.
 - Learning how to use Coursemason is part of the June 2nd Professional Development Day.
- What is the expectation for teachers next year since the materials are dated 2015-2016? Are teachers on their own?
 - No. Although we are currently looking at the materials we currently utilize, we will also be looking at new materials. With Coursemason teachers can upload their lessons and they are able to pull from anyone in the district.
- How many people responded to the survey?
 - 15 people answered, and 13 were responses from 6th grade teachers.
- What will be in place for 6th grade teachers on June 2nd?
 - Coursemason access, the templates, a list of recommended assessments, and recommended resources. We want people to have access and knowledge.
- Tech support?
 - Phase II will have more information.
- How many people attended the walk-through?
 - About 75 people.

Comments:

- There was representation from all buildings, except for 6th grade. There was a Call to Committee that went out to all teachers. The curriculum writing then comes to IC and if it's approved then the proposal moves forward to the next stage.

Action Items

Secondary Math – Item Approved

- Item motioned to be voted on:
 - **Approved – 20, Opposed – 0, Abstained – 2**

Elementary Math – Item Approved

Council Discussion:

- Council member suggested the workbook be printed by module rather than binding all modules together into one big book.
- What is happening with the Spanish version?
 - Engage NY states they will be done by the end of this year. If they are not ready by then, the math department will have to pay to have the units translated.
- 6th grade spent a lot of time looking at many different programs. We were guided into looking at Engage NY because it best addresses the Common Core.
- Shay McCorkle from Lake County ROE has stated there is not one single material that can be bought that is Common Core ready.
- Some of these worksheets are just sprints, skill practice. An activity will be done in class and one will be taken for homework.
- Item motioned to be voted on:
 - **Approved 19, Opposed 2, Abstained 1.**

K-5 ELA – Item Approved

Council Discussion:

- Lucy Calkins is now off the table. There was concern with the materials and the lack there of.
- If Lucy Calkins has been pulled what is the writing piece of that curriculum?
 - Being a Writer is still there.
- What is the urgency of coming to IC?
 - The expectation remains for next school year; so each grade level will have resources within live binders.
- Typically in this district a framework appears, but there are no resources to support it. Part of being a professional is that you should find your materials. Some people can easily find materials. To get kids to read we need to have materials readily available.
- Many teachers are asking for a framework. We have thousands of books, but it takes time to do the themes. Give teachers what we have as a framework and then give them guidance as a start.
- All of the first trimester the assessments will be done by May and the resources will be added to the live binders.
- Is there a technology piece?
 - The classrooms are not equipped.
- **Item motioned to be voted on as a draft work in progress with assessments and resources to be further defined to be implemented in the 14-15 school year.**
 - **Approved 21, Opposed 1, Abstained 0**

Further Discussion on ELA 6-12 Proposal

- Teachers feel they aren't part of the process. There are pieces that still need to be addressed in this proposal.
 - Assessments haven't been clearly defined.

- There is no clarity with the benchmarks.
- There are many questions which have not been answered.
- There is the communication piece. Although all teachers were invited to attend the curriculum writing, that was not enough.
- Why wasn't this brought up in Steering Committee?
 - It was brought up because teacher feedback is important.
- How can we move this proposal forward if we have not addressed teacher feedback?
- One of the best ways to get representation is to answer a Call to Committee.
- Veteran teachers are ignoring the Call to Committees, because they feel they have been burned in the past. As a result, these committees become composed of new teachers.
- The council as a whole needs to decide what pieces we want included in a proposal.

Summary Statements

- The Instructional Council reviewed proposed revisions to the contract language as it relates to the Instructional Council.
- The impact of common core planning was reflected in the presentations presented and approved by council this month
- Dual Language resources were approved by the Instructional Council.
- K-12 Mathematics was approved by the Instructional Council.
- K-5 English Language Arts proposal was approved as a draft work in progress with assessments and resources to be further defined to be implemented in the 14-15 school.
- 6-12 English Language Arts was presented to the Instructional Council. Questions and feedback will be sent to the writing committee to be addressed.