

Academic Committee Minutes 5/1/2023

5:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m

Attendance: Joshua Weitzel, Jennifer Walker, Tracy Fasick, Pamela Watts, Mike Clair, Russell Fraley-Hogg, Robert Creighton, Steven Bushey, Michael Pyle, Kim Marroli, Amy Beachy, Nate Campbell, Kelli Hammond, Art Paynter, Dr. Amy Flannery, Dr. Ryan Axe, Matt Linder, Pat McGeehan, Dr. Krystle Nemeth

1. Welcome: Introduction of new Committee Chair: Mrs. Jennifer Walker

☐ Wax Museum .pptx

- Ms. Fasick welcomed the group with a PowerPoint based on the 6th grade wax museum.

2. MS and HS Math Curriculum Updates and Resource-Requests; Instructional Facilitator Mr. Fraley-Hogg, Ms. Kelli Hammond and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ms. Fasick: Board Approval

☐ Math Updates 5-01-23

- Ms. Fasick discussed the standards of math practices and learning progressions. Curriculum work began in 2022, from Kindergarten to Algebra 2 has been mapped out. Ms. Fasick discussed how focusing on big ideas can allow teachers to remediate issues with learners or progress other learners at their own pace.
- Each grade level worked on their own curriculum (samples shown and passed around)
- Ms. Fasick discussed learning targets and what the success criteria is to achieve (discussed specific criteria, why it is relevant, important vocab, resources, and how it will be assessed)
- Introduction of MS math department by RC Fraley-Hogg
- MS is looking to implement moving away from traditional textbooks had previously been using prior year textbooks raising the question is this how we want to be teaching our learners
- How to give feedback faster introduction of desmos interactive software, district learners have already been using online free version
- Mr. Fraley Hogg expressed the grade 5 excitement over the Reveal Math online component which was on the January docket and approved.
- Grade 7 and 8 Desmos Math utilization

- Introduction of HS math department by Ms. Kelli Hammond
- Ms. Hammond discussed learning progressions and lesson agendas to keep kids together and allow for independent pacing.
- Looking to purchase Kuta software as an infinite question generator.
- Mrs. Hammond discussed the use of learning progressions being implemented in Algebra 2 as it is in Geometry and Algebra 1.
- AP statistics requesting updated textbooks based on statistics requiring relevant information
- Grade 5 is requesting \$25,301.68 for Reveal Math Redbird and Arrive 5 year bundle which includes both digital and print books for 207 learners and 3 facilitators.
- Grades 7-8 math and Algebra 1 requests a 3-year license for 465 learners and 9 teachers for a total cost of \$20,005.00 and 1.5 PD day for \$5,700.
- Middle school total is \$51,006.68
- HS request \$8,117.24 Statistics: The Practice of Statistics, Bedford, Freeman & Worth for 3 years 30 bundle (print and digital). Total cost: \$6,267.24
- HS requests Kuta Site License for HS algebra through calculus. Total cost: \$1,850
- High school total is \$8,117.24

3. Special Education Plan Updates: Ms. Pamela Watts: Board Approval

Spec Ed Plan Academic Com.pptx

- The special education plan due every 3 years, 2023 was an update year.
- There are 457 learners in special education for a total percentage of 16.4% coming in below the state average of 18.1%
- Ms. Watts went over what indicators were met this period. She then reviewed indicators not met this period and how to improve subjects in this area. Least restrictive environment progress made in this period out of district placements.
- Ms. Watts reviewed the Educational Program Profile as well as special education support services and personnel development.
- Opened the floor for questions

4. Grade 3 and 4 progress report changes: Ms. Fasick: Committee Discussion

Grades 3 and 4 Report Card Changes

- Ms. Fasick opened the subject by acknowledging work has been ongoing for 2 years and collaboration is at an all time high. She said a thank you to the report card committee for their work on this topic.
- Pilot report card created and introduced to all 3rd & 4th grade teachers. Four teachers piloted the report card and questionnaire/reflection provided to parents/teachers.
- Ms. Fasick and teachers are continuing to plan and looking to implement the new report card in 23-24
- The way we assess our learners has changed so should our report cards
- Reviewed major differences and the move to trimesters from quarters
- Baron difference maker rubric review and companion guide review. Ms. Fasick went over parent feedback and questions before reviewing the Standards-based report card community guide followed by facilitator feedback.
- Went over timeline and the next steps in implementation
- Opened floor for questions
- Question was posed by committee member Nate Campbell regarding trial period and k-2 trimester move how does this impact conferences
- Feedback was posed by board member Matt Linder about including percentages as to not impact GPA standings in the future
- Feedback was given by school board member Pat McGeehan stating other districts have implemented same procedure which led to students producing minimum effort to reach the standard rating
- Feedback was given by committee head Jenifer Walker that letter grades give more information, and she shared the value of having both percentage grade and standards. She also shared her experience going through this similar process with 2 other districts and shared it will be vital to include a lot of parent information sessions on the topic.
- Feedback given by committee member Nate Campbell about the culture of grading in America, the fact that a percent can be very misleading and does not tell you what the child actually knows or can do. Mr. Campbell is in favor of 3, 2, 1 grading scale at the elementary level and feels that this is a great place to start to be able to shift the culture.
- Ms. Fasick commented that the goal is to focus on the learning and to be able to communicate what a child can do without extraneous factors being included like homework and extra credit.

5. Preparing for future high school course offerings by Mr. Weitzel: Committee Discussion

P Academic Committee Presentation_5.1.23.pptx

- Update and review of current year policies including new security measures for entering the high school building and guidelines for attendance.
- Specific testing information for Keystone Testing will be sent out to parents and guardians
- Course selection timeline for grades 8 through 11 presented with a TBD date for incoming high school learners
- Changes to master schedule including the elimination of pre-requisite courses to allow for more engagement beginning in 9th grade and changing grading sequence. Changes also include consolidation of small course sections to allow for other offerings. Mr. Weitzel discussed the instructional coaching staff in Math, ELA, and Social Studies programs.
- Considerations for the 24-25 school year include eliminating the Creating with Computers course if prerequisite is no longer required and designing/implementing additional tiers for former prerequisite required courses.
- HS will be working on changing their curriculum surrounding Family & Consumer Science and Business.
- Discussion was held on the downsizing AP course selections in favor of College in High School expansion through the University of Pittsburgh.

6. Title IV Updates: Committee Discussion

☐ Title 4 Updates

- MCSD received \$44,943 last year in Title IV funding and discussion was had on how money is able to be spent/what it was spent on this year
- Ms. Fasick reviewed the rules regarding federal funding
- Ms. Fasick shared a Smore letter that was sent to the Committee and reviewed this year's purchases (2022-2023) based on Committee Feedback from 2021-2022.

7. ChaptGPT presentation: Committee Discussion

☐ Chat GPT

- Ms. Fasick reviewed the AI program ChatGPT and how teachers can combat the use of it in their classrooms.