

MINUTES

North Boone Community Unit School District #200

Board C.I.A. Committee: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

North Boone District Office, 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

November 7, 2013 at 4:00 PM

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy Morris at 4:05 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Dr. Steven Baule, Mrs. Kristi Crawford, Mrs. Lindsay Abbeduto, Mrs. Heather Walsh, Mr. Collin Crull, Ms. Tracy Schabacker, Ms. Rachel Eglite, Mrs. Deb Torrison. The following Committee members were absent: Mr. Jake Hubert, Mr. Matt Klett, Dr. Bridget Belcastro, Mrs. Kristi Franseen, Mrs. Kelly Hanaman, Mrs. Melissa Nachampassack, Mrs. Jeannine Plath, Mrs. Mary Piske. Mrs. Emily Wykes and Mr. Kris Hayden were also present.

Audience to Visitors

(No Audience to Visitors)

Updates: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Items

Curriculum Course Proposals:

Mrs. Deb Torrison, teacher at North Boone High School, presented the proposed new course, Health II. The current requirement is one semester of health, taken in the sophomore year. The main objective is to provide more depth to the required course. Health II is intended as a junior or senior elective. Dr. Baule and Mrs. Morris questioned if it would have an impact on scheduling or staffing. Dr. Baule has some reservations about this class regarding how it would affect scheduling, the costs if it cannot be used as a PE waiver, and if we are the only school in the area offering this type of class. (In fact, Oregon does offer a Health II course.)

The Committee recommended that we move forward with reservations on the Health II class.

Mrs. Heather Walsh, Assistant Principal at North Boone High School, presented the proposed new courses, Microsoft Office 1 and 2. These courses were designed to help students possibly achieve Microsoft Certified Application Specialist (MCAS) certification. These courses would double the amount of Microsoft classes that are currently offered. Microsoft Office 1 is a major revision to an existing course and would cover advanced Word and PowerPoint Level 1. If classroom time allows, they could focus on Access. Microsoft Office 2 would focus on Excel and involve the utilization of functions, formulas and advanced spreadsheet skills. Mrs. Abbeduto asked what the business community is looking for in new employees. Dr. Baule and Mrs. Torrison both commented that the MS Office Suite is still important. Dr. Baule felt we need to offer the Microsoft classes in multiple sections during both semesters.

The Committee recommended that Microsoft Office 1 and 2 be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Physical Science II – Mr. Kris Hayden, Science Teacher at North Boone High School, presented this as a one-year course, open primarily to junior and seniors not planning to major in science in college. The pre-requisites are Biology and Earth Science. Mr. Hayden mentioned that most students ultimately take Environmental Science, but said the staff would like to add Physical Science II, which would be geared for college bound students. Physical Science II is similar to a physics class without all the math, and is designed for students not taking Chemistry. Another purpose to this path is to condition students to prepare for college and testing. The cost is minimal, and the path would then include Concept Biology and Earth Science, with Physical Science as the third class. Mr. Hayden feels we really need this class to broaden the scope of the science curriculum. Dr. Baule questioned if this would be an elective or if this is a requirement, since it's on the state test. Mrs. Morris asked if there would be a scheduling conflict with Physical Science and Agriculture classes, but Mrs. Walsh felt scheduling would not be an issue. Mrs. Walsh will investigate how many students take Environmental, Agriculture and another science all at the same time. Dr. Baule suggested changing the title of this course, and if it is lab based, it should not have Concepts as part of the title. Mrs. Walsh confirmed Physical Science is not currently in the catalog, and everything except Bio Concepts and Agriculture Environmental are NCAA approved. Mrs. Abbeduto feels that Physical Science II should be lab based and the curriculum written as such. Dr. Baule asked Mrs. Walsh to forward a copy of the complete school profile that we are currently sending along with transcripts.

The Committee recommended that Physical Science II be taken to the Board of Education for approval under a more compelling course title and ensuring it will meet NCAA criteria for a lab course.

Newcomer English – Mrs. Emily Wykes, Bilingual Teacher at Poplar Grove Elementary and North Boone High School presented this as a one-year course for students that have been in the country for less than one year. This class would serve as a formal course with credit and would be open to all high school students. In the past, we have offered an ELL Skills class, but it was differently designed with half English and half Study Hall. She also shared that legislation says ELL classes should not count as an English requirement. Mrs. Wykes stated that she would eventually have to create a follow on course.

The Committee recommended that Newcomer English be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Tablet Pilot:

Mrs. Abbeduto said the pilot program was progressing well. Engagement and problem solving have both increased tremendously, in ways that haven't been experienced in the past. There is a concern with the number of cracked screens. However, they are now offering covers for students to purchase. Mrs. Abbeduto explained the process of addressing and recovering the fee for a damaged screen. After the student is interviewed, a call is made to the parent, who then pays for the damage. Dr. Baule feels the tablets we currently have may be manufactured differently than the ones we used during trials, as we did not experience so many cracked screens. He also shared we are not the only district experiencing this problem. There is also a concern that component repair is taking longer than expected. Mr. Jerry Rudolph is working to secure additional spares in the short term to address that issue. Mrs. Morris was impressed with how well the 7th graders are responding to the tablets in that they are communicating their questions to teachers via email. However, she was concerned with tablet use for testing, as 90% of students failed a particular Spanish test. She asked if the application could be corrupt or if the

students just didn't understand how to use the tablet. Mrs. Torrison said that due to group logins, some things may work better in a web browser and that teachers are now aware of this situation.

Other Items for Discussion

The next Curriculum Committee meeting is planned for January or early February to discuss the technology plan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Amy Morris /S/
Amy Morris, Chairperson