

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

April 10, 2014 at 5:00 PM

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy Morris at 5:04 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Dr. Steven Baule, Mrs. Kristi Crawford, Ms. Rachel Eglite, Mr. Jake Hubert, Ms. Tracy Schabacker and Mrs. Deb Torrison. The following Committee members were absent: Mr. Collin Crull and Mrs. Kristi Franseen. Mrs. Lindsay Abbeduto, Mrs. Melissa Geyman, Mr. Randal Greenfield and Mr. Mike Websecher were also present.

Audience to Visitors

Mrs. Dawn Brunshon, parent, expressed her concerns with the changes to the Middle School Social Studies program and asked the committee to reconsider the curriculum.

Middle School Schedule for 2014-2015

Dr. Baule shared that we are not eliminating Social Studies, but incorporating it into the Reading class, which is pretty common. He noted we have a significant overlap in Social Studies and English classes, yet still have gaps. Instead of cutting elementary Reading Specialists, he is suggesting going from five to four person teams at the Middle School level. Mrs. Abbeduto distributed a draft of the schedule for grades 5-8. The proposal includes two hours of literacy and RtI enrichment time. Reading / Language Arts are at 100 minutes and will now include Social Studies and expand to 120 minutes. Mrs. Abbeduto shared that a Title I survey showed parents and students wanted more choices. This new schedule will also allow 7th and 8th graders to have more options in choosing electives. Mrs. Morris asked how all students would get Social Studies instruction if the RtI students were pulled from class during Social Studies. Mrs. Abbeduto said materials were purchased that would serve those students and get them exposed to the content. Mrs. Morris asked if there would be a committee to review the schedule. Dr. Baule said there currently was a lot of overlap in scope and sequence, and we will get a group of teachers in place to review. He commented that this is generally a two year process. Ms. Eglite spoke on behalf of the ELA teachers and said at the 5-6 level, she has a much richer curriculum when she incorporates the subjects. She felt if teachers will be evaluated on scores, they would like to be involved in the decision. Dr. Baule said Illinois hasn't tested on Social Studies standards in several years, and it would likely be ten more years before that will happen again.

Updates: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Items

Curriculum Course Proposals:

Mr. Mike Wesbecher presented information on a 5th Grade Computer Course. He shared that over the past two years, 5th graders at North Boone Upper Elementary School have received one hour a week of keyboarding instruction over the course of the school year. This has been roughly the equivalent of one quarter of instruction. Beginning in the fall of 2014, fifth grade students who sign up for computers will meet for one hour a day for an entire semester. This will provide greater continuity and allow students the chance to practice their skills on a regular basis and

therefore achieve at a higher level. The course will consist of eight weeks of keyboarding instruction, followed by ten weeks of word processing and basic desktop publishing.

The Committee recommended that the 5th Grade Computer Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Wesbecher then shared the course information on a 6th Grade Computer Applications Course. He explained that in the past, 6th graders at North Boone Upper Elementary School have received one hour a week of computer instruction, however, in the fall of 2014, sixth grade students who sign up for computers will meet for one hour a day for an entire semester. The content will include Advanced Desktop Publishing, Google Sites, Electronic Presentations, Spreadsheets, Google Draw and Digital Storytelling. He mentioned by offering these courses at the 5-6 grade levels, it would open up course selections for grades 7-8.

The Committee recommended that the 6th Grade Computer Applications Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Websecher attended an ICE conference and witnessed an amazing, new type of programming called SCRATCH programming. He then presented information on a Creative Computer Programming Course for Middle School students, which is designed to teach computer programming. The course will utilize two of the best such interfaces currently available: SCRATCH and Alice. He said the combination of interactivity, collaboration, and reflection represents something new in technology education at North Boone and should result in a very intellectually stimulating and enriching experience for students at our middle school. This course will consist of two parts. Part I will use SCRATCH animation software to create a variety of computer applications in the areas of the arts, storytelling, and game design. Part II will use Alice programming software to create virtual worlds in which characters that students design move, talk, and interact with each other. He noted that all the software is free. SCRATCH is a free online programming interface developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Alice is a free online programming interface developed by Carnegie-Mellon University. Mr. Wesbecher confirmed this software could be used with our current tablets.

The Committee recommended that the Creative Computer Programming Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Websecher then discussed the proposal for a Digital Communications Course for Middle School students. This course will combine visual art theories, computer applications, and business techniques to empower students with the ability to analyze, critique, and create digital projects. As a result of this course, students will learn to be responsible digital citizens. This course will educate students about their role in digital citizenship through the following themes: responsible ethical participation in online communities, the creation of a digital identity, the ethics of appropriation in terms of authorship and ownership of digital works. The required software should not cost the district any additional money as the software is either free or the district is already using.

The hardware needed would also be used in the Multimedia technology course.

Product	Cost
Sony Handycam HDR-CX240	\$6,899.70
Cyber Acoustics CVL 1064rb Microphone	\$319.04

Mr. Wesbecher confirmed with Mr. Hubert that there would be coordination with the high school for these proposed courses.

The Committee recommended that the Digital Communications Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Wesbecher then discussed the Multimedia Technology Course, and shared that he taught a unit this year on digital storytelling using Windows Movie Maker and Animoto. In this unit, each student created a series of three films. The videos created included adaptations of a fable and a children's book and a photo montage video. At the end of the unit, he held a film festival in which each student entered their best film. He said the unit was very successful and as a result, he has outlined this new course which will focus on audio and video storytelling. This one semester course will enable students to learn and apply basic audio and video editing techniques. The projects completed will include the use of Audacity audio editing software, Adobe Premiere video editing software, and video cameras. The software needed would be Windows Movie Maker and Adobe Premiere Elements 12. The hardware needed would be shared with the Digital Communications class and would include:

Budget

Product	Cost
Windows Movie Maker	0
Adobe Premiere Elements 12	\$3,000.32 (to license all 32 computers)
Sony Handycam HDR-CX240 Camcorders	Shared with Digital Communications
Sony Handycam Accessories Kits	\$1,499.85
Cyber Acoustics CVL 1064rb Microphones	Shared with Digital Communications

Mr. Wesbecher felt that since students are already making videos, this class could help teach them the methodology.

The Committee recommended that the Multimedia Technology Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Randal Greenfield presented information on a Middle School 3D Art Course, which is a major revision to an existing course available to students in grades 7-8. This course allows students to experience more than one option at the Middle School level, and would last the entire semester. It would help open up other possibilities for students to broaden their experiences and talents. This would be a three-dimensional class using clay, wire, plaster, etc. This class will cover Art History, Principles and Elements of Art. Dr. Baule asked if there were additional supply costs and Mr. Greenfield stated he had some of the supplies in stock but may need some clay tools.

The Committee recommended that the 3D Art Course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Greenfield presented a revision to an existing Middle School course Drawing and Painting. This course also allows students more than one option at the Middle School level, and combines the Drawing and Painting course. This course will explore two-dimensional mediums in the art world, from colored pencils to acrylic paints. This class will cover Art History, Principles and Elements of Art.

The Committee recommended that the Drawing and Painting course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Greenfield then presented information on a Middle School Digital Media Course. This is a new course designed for students in grades 7-8. Digital images and original artwork will be manipulated into various art projects with a strong emphasis on the district art and technology standards and guidelines, and will allow students to use technology to integrate art. Mr. Greenfield has been coordinating this effort with Mr. Dave Siggelkov, the NBHS art teacher. The Committee recommended that the Digital Media course be taken to the Board of Education for approval.

Dr. Baule mentioned we are looking for a more coordinated curriculum. He felt we need to strengthen our scope and sequence and that it is nice to give students options. Mr. Hubert encouraged Mr. Wesbecher and Mr. Greenfield to continue to coordinate these offerings with the high school. Mrs. Abbeduto added that a list of all electives will be sent home to each family and parents will have to sign off on the choices.

Dr. Baule asked if there were any questions or issues, or if we could move forward on the courses presented. There were no objections.

One Hour of Code Initiative

Dr. Baule asked the committee if they were in agreement that we should do a better job of teaching the coding (programming), and is looking for teachers to volunteer. The goal is to get every K-12 student to learn one hour of code by Thanksgiving. Dr. Baule had spoken to CEANCI about a summer program, and Mr. Wesbecher and Dr. Baule will work on this initiative for summer 2015. Mr. Hubert will help in putting together a strand of classes to get CEANCI funding.

Tablets

Dr. Baule shared that a Technology Committee meeting was held on April 1st, and at that meeting Mrs. Abbeduto made the recommendation to expand the tablet program to grades 5-8. He said the Technology Committee supported that recommendation with some hesitation based on whether they would be Droid or Windows tablets at grades 9-12. He then asked for input from the Curriculum Committee before he meets with the Administrative team to make a recommendation for next year. Mrs. Abbeduto said that based on communications received from teachers, they would prefer to go to Windows based tablets, which may help solve some of the connectivity issues. She also believes most of the issues the 5th, 6th and 8th grades are experiencing is due to not having their own device. Dr. Baule mentioned one of the issues with Droid vs. Windows was simply cost. At the time the pilot was started, Droid was about one-third of the cost, but now there is a price delta that is not nearly as great. There are a number of issues from an IT standpoint if we go Windows vs. Droid. On the Droid side, we already have an operating system that works very well. For Windows, we'd be moving to Windows 8, which is not currently used across the district, and there would be some security issues that would need to be worked out. Dr. Baule will continue to work through these issues. He then asked for input from the committee. Mrs. Abbeduto said past damage had been a concern, and one of the Windows options they were looking at were much sturdier than the Droid tablets, and repair costs will be one-third of our current cost. Dr. Baule said Droid tablets have many more issues when they are shared vs. then when they are used by the same individual, as Droid is meant to be an individual operating system. Mr. Jerry Rudolf and Dr. Baule are also working on insurance

options for the tablets. Mrs. Deb Torrison asked how we would utilize the Droid tablets that are already in the district. Dr. Baule said most elementary teachers would love to use them, and at the level, you could set them up with a generic classroom sign in, which would solve the multi-user problem. Mrs. Morris asked if the current 7th graders who have the Droids would keep those devices all the way through their high school career. Dr. Baule said that is one of the questions, if we do that or move all the teachers over to Windows, and move the 7th graders as well. Dr. Baule has heard from many groups, the Administrative team, and is still capturing more in-depth individual conversations. Mrs. Morris thought from the student perspective, if they have to switch, they would adapt pretty quickly. Dr. Baule said that learning the Droid was more difficult than learning Windows. Mrs. Morris said from a teacher's perspective, they would have to adjust to that class if the Droids stayed with the current 7th graders. Dr. Baule said there were about four variables left in the process and provided some of the technology solutions.

Other Items for Discussion

Dr. Baule asked if anyone had objections to resuming composition as a core requirement at the high school level, enforcing the writing requirement, which would include writing research papers. Dr. Baule said it used to be included in 11-12 English, but now it is not even taught in Honors English. Somehow, it was phased out about 10-15 years ago, so beginning next year, we will need to identify the core steps that need to be taught.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting is TBD.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Amy Morris / S /
Amy Morris, Chairperson