

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2017
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Members Attending: Ami Aalgaard, Jared Blanche, Erin Curran, Dr. Mary Fairbanks, Dr. John Gonzalez, Dr. James Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Amanda Mix, Gigi Nicoson, Kathy Palm, Ken Schreiber, Dr. Jason Stanoch, Brian Stefanich, Chris Tolman, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena

Agenda

1. Members introduced themselves and said where they work. Then we reviewed the minutes from the October 10, 2017 meeting.
2. Following the Bemidji School Board's recommendation, the newly formed Curriculum Policy Committee met October 25 to address culturally relevant curriculum and the revision of policy SBR 400-30-8. The Curriculum Policy Committee members included: Gina Bernard, Jared Blanche, Leah Bratlien, Susan Eichstadt, Dr. Mary Fairbanks, Dr. John Gonzalez, Matt Menne, Amanda Mix, Kathy Palm, and Sonia Wadena. The committee members discussed their process and brought their recommendation to the Curriculum Advisory Committee as an action item. After a motion by Drew Hildenbrand and a second by Dr. Mary Fairbanks, the Curriculum Committee voted unanimously to approve the Curriculum Policy Committee's recommendation. Kathy will bring this recommendation to the Bemidji School Board's December 18, 2017, meeting.

We discussed how our district is addressing culture this year. The middle school surveyed their students, and they found that students did not understand the meaning of diversity. The teachers found they need to teach diversity and transgender more for student understanding. Dr. Hess is requiring the Leadership Team to address Cultural Leadership in our goals this year, so all principals and administrators are focusing on more cultural experiences for themselves and their staff. The Language Arts Curriculum Review Committee is purposefully looking for resources that address culture and especially American Indian culture to meet Minnesota Standards. They are pleased to be working with our new Cultural Curriculum Specialist, Jared Blanche. The District Staff Development Committee adopted a goal to provide more professional development this school year on culture and poverty, and Amanda Mix and Jared Blanche shared some of the trainings they are offering. A concern was mentioned that with the training we provide after school, not all teachers are able to attend because of other after-school activities. We need to find other times to present this training.

3. Kathy presented the 2016-2017 World's Best Workforce Summary including five goals and other requirements, which is posted on the web at:

<http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/> under Curriculum and World's Best Workforce. This summary is due to MDE December 15, 2017; however, Kathy received approval from MDE to send it following the Bemidji School Board's December 18 meeting and approval. The committee members provided good comments and suggested a couple of changes to the report including: removing the reference to the special education Transition Expo under 2d. College and Career Ready and adding clarification to the student ratios language in the final section on 5. Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers. Kathy will incorporate these changes for the Bemidji School Board.

4. Kathy shared the 2017-2018 School Improvement and Staff Development Plans, which are posted on the web at: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/> under Curriculum and World's Best Workforce. The booklet contains: 2017-2022 Bemidji School Board Strategic Plan, Bemidji District 2017-2018 Goals, 2017-2018 District Staff Development Goals, Summary of School 2017-2018 Goals, and individual school 2017-2018 School Improvement Plans. All schools created their SMART goals, which are aligned with the district goals and their staff development goals.
5. Kathy shared the Fall 2017 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results. This was the first year students in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 have taken the MAP assessment. Young children are not as adept at using a mouse for this computerized assessment, so we expected lower results from them. The elementary grades are performing just below the national norm, and the secondary grades are performing well above the national norms. Informational Text is the main strand of concern for reading, and Algebra is the math strand with the greatest concern.
6. Kathy and Gigi Nicoson provided an update on the 2017-2018 PreK-12 Language Arts Curriculum Review. Teachers are examining resources and soon will schedule presentations with publishers.
7. Kathy shared that the new 2017 Every Student Succeeds Act requires 67% four-year graduation rate for all subgroups. MDE will identify high schools for improvement when the 2017 graduation results are available in January or February. Kathy will share this information with the committee.

We discussed the new multi-ethnic designation, which has affected the number of students identified for each ethnic group, especially American Indian. The percent American Indian students was 20.9% October 2015, and with the addition of the multi-ethnic category for October 2016, we dropped to 16.3% American Indian in our district.

8. We look forward to adding one or two student representatives to our committee, and hopefully, they can join us in February.
9. Our next meeting will be February 13, 2018. The meeting adjourned at 8:17.