

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2018
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Jared Blanche, Erin Curran, Mary Fairbanks, John Gonzalez, Dr. James Hess, Donna Hickerson, Brooke Hildenbrand, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Ann LongVoelkner, Gigi Nicoson, Kathy Palm, Jacque Pearce, Jason Stanoch, Brian Stefanich, John Truedson, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena

Guests: Curriculum Review Committee Members: Jessica Kemp, Anna Hamrin, and Lisa Newhouse

Minutes

1. Members and guests introduced themselves. We were pleased to have student Brooke Hildenbrand and district secretary Jacque Pearce join our committee, so we now have all groups represented for World's Best Workforce.
2. The 2017-2018 PreK-12 Language Arts Curriculum Review Committee Chairs reported their review process and results. Jessica Kemp, high school chair, explained the high school's process and how they decided to adopt Pearson's myPerspectives for grades 9-11 anthology. They would like to purchase the consumable text, so students can write and highlight in the text. Each year Pearson would send replacement texts. The high school also selected novels by grade level with attention to more American Indian works. Erin Curran, high school media specialist, also shared how she is supporting the curriculum through the high school media center.

Donna Hickerson, middle school chair, shared the middle school's process and curriculum selections. Because their current anthologies are still in good shape, they prefer to invest their curriculum monies in Chromebook carts with one 32-computer cart per language arts teacher. They find it difficult to access to the computers at the middle school because they are in such high demand. As a result, they are not doing justice to the Common Core Standards digital media and visual displays. Middle school language arts teachers also want to focus more attention on writing. They plan to purchase a 6-year subscription to Scholastic's Scope magazine, which offers current, high interest topics for middle school students, grammar, writing, and vocabulary that are aligned to the Common Core Standards. In addition the middle school teachers selected novels with special attention to American Indian selections.

Gigi Nicoson, elementary chair, shared the many curriculum resources that the elementary committee examined. They participated in more presentations this year than we have in the past because there are so many good and different resources to choose from. The committee found the selection difficult and expressed concerns about making this change when we already have so many changes happening next year with the start of Gene Dillon Elementary. The committee decided to continue

the review process next year to make a well-researched decision. They selected Benchmark Advance and Center for Collaborative Classroom to pilot next year. At the same time, they will visit schools that are using these products and research what is working well and what is not.

3. We noted the February 13, 2018 minutes and that discussion about the new grades 4-5 Gene Dillon Elementary School and the district's Indian Education program.
4. Kathy shared the most recent data with the committee members. She shared MDE's rubric and comments on the district's World's Best Workforce Summary. This document will be posted on the district website. Overall the report was positive. We needed to add students and other staff to our committee to satisfy WBWF requirements.

Kathy shared the Demographics based on the MDE website for ethnicity, free and reduced lunch, special education, and mobility. Our free and reduced percentage is down slightly at 48.1% for grades K-12. The American Indian percentage is also lower because of the new multi-ethnic category. Mobility is slightly less than the previous year, but special education is up to 17.2% for K-12.

MDE changed the way they calculate graduation data for years 2012 to 2017. As a result, many of the percentages changed, often lower. MDE is counting students more where they received the majority of their high school instruction. Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the state is requiring a 67% graduation rate for all subgroups. The 2017 Bemidji District graduation percentage for all students improved from 75.13% in 2016 to 75.85%. The District 2017 American Indian graduation rate was 46.0%, free and reduced 55.91%, and special education 69.84%. Bemidji High School showed improvement from 2016 to 2017, and all subgroups with at least 20 students were above 67%. BHS's overall 2017 graduation rate for all students was 88.27%.

MDE also changed the way they determine attendance, and the target percentage is 90%. Kathy shared a 2016-2017 MARSS report where the district percent attendance for all students was 92.07%. With the new calculations for Consistent Attendance, the district 2016-2017 attendance rate for all students dropped to 72.11%. Consistent Attendance will be Stage 3 of the accountability data which MDE will examine in August each year to determine which schools need improvement.

5. The District Curriculum Advisory Committee meets at 7:00 a.m. the second Tuesday every other month and additional times as needed. The following schedule is set for 2018-2019 at the District Board Room, Downtown Education Center:
 - Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7:00 a.m.
6. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.