

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Vince Beyl, Erin Curran, Mary Fairbanks, Dave Gooch, Jeff Haack, Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Maura Johnson, Kim Kusler, Ann LongVoelkner, Kathy Palm, Brian Stefanich, Sonia Wadena, Janine Wahl

Minutes:

1. At 7:00 a.m., the members introduced themselves and where they work.
2. David Gooch, BHS Project Lead the Way Instructor, presented a new initiative this year at the high school called Mechatronics. This program integrates mechanics, electronics, control and systems theory, and computers into a single system used within production and manufacturing. Its purpose is to improve efficiency, productivity, and quality. BHS students attend class at the high school three days a week and at Northwest Technical College two days a week. Currently, they can earn certificates when they complete, but the high school is working to provide the students with college credit. The program currently enrolls only seniors, and the federal government covers those costs. The high school would like to include younger students, so they can complete more coursework. This program is a great step toward providing opportunities for students to become college and career ready.
3. Dr. Hess and Brian Stefanich shared information about the Bridges Academy offered through Brainerd schools. This is a program that connects students to the workplace, prepares them for careers, and provides certificates of their experience. Several district representatives are meeting with the Brainerd group on Thursday this week to learn more about the program. Dr. Hess shared that Bemidji already has several pathways that we could pursue to offer this opportunity to students such as: Project Lead the Way, Advanced Manufacturing, Business Management, Auto Technology, Health Careers, Conservation Science, and Broadcast Technology. He said we will probably start with four pathways and build on that experience.
4. Kathy shared the final printed 2013-2014 World's Best Workforce Report and the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plans, which are also available on the district World's Best Workforce web site.
5. Kathy shared the 2014-2015 World's Best Workforce Plan and the new district website at: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/> under Curriculum and World's Best Workforce. She went through all of the links to point out the information available there. Kathy asked the committee members to let her know if they see something that needs changes or additions.

6. Kathy shared the Fall 2014 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress results. All grades are doing very well compared to the norm group except second grade. This is the first time those young students have been exposed to this computerized test, and it is stressful for some. We need to focus our reading instruction on Informational Text, a new strand with the change to the Common Core Language Arts Standards. Math is looking very strong, and algebra is the area that several grades need to focus. We see a many strengths for the upper grades in math.
7. Kathy shared that MDE will monitor Bemidji's Title I & II January 12-16, 2015. As part of that monitoring process, they will also look at our World's Best Workforce Plan.
8. The 2014-2016 Curriculum Review will include: Art, Health, Music, Physical Education, and World Language. The district will postpone some larger expenses in order to start building the new elementary school this spring. Because the bond money will not be available at that time, we will delay the purchase of curriculum review materials until July 2016. That will move the remaining curriculum reviews back one year.
9. The district hired a College & Career Interventionist supported by the Rural & Low Income grant. Brian Murphy currently teaches part time at the AEC, and he will add this to his contract. Brian will work to keep students in school. He will reach out to students who are falling behind in credits and attendance and encourage them to complete.
10. The next meeting for the District Curriculum Advisory Committee is Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 7:00 a.m. in the District Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.