

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Committee Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Melissa Bahr, Vince Beyl, Brent Colligan, Erin Curran, Mary Fairbanks, Dave Gooch, Dr. Jim Hess, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Maura Johnson, Kim Kusler, Ann LongVoelkner, Kathy Palm, Brian Stefanich, Kathy VanWert, Janine Wahl

Minutes

1. The meeting started at 7:00 a.m. with members introducing themselves.
2. District Nurse Emily Bakken, RN, BSN, LSN, presented the need for puberty education for fourth graders because their bodies are changing at a younger age. We currently provide puberty education for fifth graders, and this additional instruction would meet the Minnesota Health Standards. Puberty education for fourth graders would include anatomy, not sex education. In the middle of the school year, schools would send home permission slips to parents, giving them the opportunity to opt their child out of this instruction. The schools would include home packets with information about how parents can talk to their child about the changes of puberty. Emily's next steps for will include:
 - a. Showing teachers the girl and boy PowerPoints she has created for 4th graders
 - b. Talking to the fourth grade teachers to determine who would teach this lesson to their students (the teacher or the school or district nurse)
 - c. Developing a parent permission letter
 - d. Presenting this curriculum to the Bemidji School Board
 - e. Finalizing everything in time for the 2015-2016 school year
3. Dr. Hess, Brian Stefanich, Brent Colligan, and Dave Gooch presented the Bemidji Lumberjack Academy: Post-Secondary Pathways. The high school currently has 250 courses, including 12 AP classes and several business partnerships. The Academies would make learning relevant by preparing students for a career. An Advisory Team has been organized, which will meet February 17, and the next step will be to decide which academies to start next fall and the classes to include for each academy.
4. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m. We ran out of time and did not have time to finish our agenda. We decided to set an additional meeting date for Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 a.m. to discuss Bemidji graduation requirements for students not attending Bemidji High School and the Title I Monitoring report.
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 2014-2015 at the District Board Room, Downtown Education Center:
 - a. Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 7:00 a.m.
 - b. Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7:00 a.m.