

Bemidji District Curriculum Advisory Committee

7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 13, 2018
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Jared Blanche, Mary Fairbanks, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Ann LongVoelkner, Amanda Mix, Gigi Nicoson, Kathy Palm, Jason Stanoch, Brian Stefanich, Chris Tolman, Sonia Wadena

Guest: Travis Whittington, Horace May Technology Teacher

Minutes:

1. Attendees introduced themselves and explained where they work. In the December 12, 2017 minutes, Kathy highlighted the work of the Curriculum Policy Committee and thanked that committee and the District Curriculum Advisory Committee for their work revising the curriculum policy to include culturally relevant curriculum language. The School Board approved the policy in December and said they appreciated the committee work and recommendation.
2. Principal Ami Aalgaard presented the progress on Gene Dillon Elementary and the daily course schedule. She shared that the schedule focuses on student needs and providing something for students at all levels and interests. She and technology teacher Travis Whittington shared the school's emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). They have developed course plans for delivering this content to all students through coding, robotics, 3D printing, physics, and real life applications. Students will see an emphasis on the core subjects of language arts, math, science, and social studies; but they will also take physical education, health, general music, keyboarding, and art, and have a choice of taking choir and orchestra. Built into the school day is time for extra help with core teachers and access to more challenging course work for more advanced students.
3. Indian Education Coordinator Sonia Wadena presented information about the Bemidji Indian Education Program. She explained that they are better able to provide for students' academic and social needs because the state of Minnesota is now providing more resources. As a result, the Indian Education staff has more than doubled the last two years. This year they are also providing family nights at every school, and American Indian families are enjoying these events. New this year is the Every Student Succeeds Act requirement that all Title programs must consult with the local tribes. Sonia had been busy scheduling these consultations with the three local Indian Tribes.

Jared Blanche, Cultural Curriculum Specialist, shared the work he is doing to provide support for teachers on American Indian culture. He is sharing lesson plans and other cultural information via his website and through email, presenting for

school staff meetings, working with the middle school social studies teachers, and presenting several after-school cultural trainings.

4. We did not have time to discuss the 2017-2018 Demographics, Winter 2018 NWEA MAP results, or Minnesota's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Kathy can share this information at the next curriculum meeting.
5. Assuming no curriculum issues arise between now and May, our next and final meeting for this school year is Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 a.m. The focus for that meeting will be the 2017-2018 Language Arts Curriculum Review.
6. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.