

Bemidji Area Schools

District Curriculum Advisory Committee



7:00-8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2018
District Board Room, Downtown Education Center

Committee Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Erin Curran, Colleen Cardenuto, Ashley Charwood, Christine Christiansen, Mary Fairbanks, Priscilla Fairbanks, John Gonzalez, Donna Hickerson, Drew Hildenbrand, Carol L. Johnson, Tim Lutz, Amanda Mix, Gigi Nicoson, Jacque Pearce, Kathy VanWert, Sonia Wadena

Minutes

1. Breakfast was provided at 6:45 with a call to order at 7:05.
2. Members and guests introduced themselves and shared a memory of a favorite gift they had received.
3. Minutes from October 9, 2018 were reviewed.
4. Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services provided an overview of the 2017-2018 World's Best Workforce Report and Summary. The report is geared more for the public and the summary is designed for state submission which is due to the Minnesota Department of Education by December 15, 2018. Both are posted on the ISD 31 district website at: <https://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/curriculum/worlds-best-workforce/worlds-best-workforce-reports/> Staff Development findings are embedded within the World's Best Workforce Report. The curriculum review cycle was moved back one year, due to the Elementary Language Arts being extended into this year:

2018-19: Language Arts and Media

2019-20: Science

2020-21: Social Studies

2021-22: Mathematics

2022-23: Art, Music, World Language, Physical Education and Health

2023-24: Vocational Education, Industrial Technology, Business and FACS

5. A brief overview of the Fall 2018 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results is given by Colleen Cardenuto in reference to handouts featuring results in graph or chart format. Red numbers indicate our baseline is below the national average. Green numbers indicate our fall baseline is above the national average. Not surprisingly, the lower grade levels have a few results in the red and the upper grade levels have most results in the green. Superintendent Lutz adds that MDE gives accolades to the upper grade levels, but elementary grades are also performing well. Cardenuto indicates the elementary results create the base.

6. The 2018-19 Curriculum Review features Elementary Language Arts and Media. Science will be reviewed in 2019-20, with preliminary preparations this year.

Superintendent Lutz indicates that Staff Development is an important connection to curriculum and student achievement. The district should be concentrating on standards alignment; keeping staff trained and apprised; vertical teaming; Q-comp incorporation; and using time in a more logistically sound manner. Media should bring Language Arts into the curriculum conversation. Science will cover new best practices; promote elementary thematic curriculum; follow curriculum maps; follow Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS); and, ultimately, achieve K-12 vertical alignment.

Christine Christiansen and Gigi Nicoson provide an overview of the Elementary Language Arts Curriculum Review. The team is looking for a balanced curriculum featuring the five components of reading: 1) Phonemic Awareness, 2) Phonics, 3) Vocabulary, 4) Fluency, and 5) Reading Comprehension. In addition to these five components, writing is a key ingredient.

The district has been using the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt "Journeys" curriculum. This, however, is not keeping pace with common core rigor; vocabulary and writing are major weaknesses.

In 2017-18 the Elementary Language Arts Review Team was unable to find what this district needs. Comprehensive Classroom was piloted in 2018-19 and requires finding supplements and assessments.

We need a base that compliments the transition from the elementary to the middle school level. Additionally, culturally relevant pedagogy is a priority within considerations. At the Middle School, technology is a very important piece

7. 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.
8. In other conversation, Colleen Cardenuto indicates she has a Curriculum Handbook Guide for all subjects. The goal for the district is to build consistent curriculum mapping across the district with a "thematic approach."
9. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.