

Curriculum Committee Minutes  
October 23, 2018 3:30 PM

I. Present: Cindy Luty- chair, Dr. Ivy Davis-Tomczuk, Dr Roy Seitsinger, Deborah Grabarek

II. Public comment: none

III. Approval of the May 7, 2018 minutes  
Grabarek/Luty

IV. Old business:  
Dr. Ivy Davis-T

A. Surveys:

1. Ivy reviewed the results of the Social Studies Survey completed by the teachers. The feedback showed that at this time they have what they need in order to teach the new SS. curriculum.
2. The results of the Math in Focus Survey did show some concerns from the teachers. It is felt that more time for math is needed in the schedule at the elementary level. Some of the content of the MIF program is not assessed on the Smarter Balance Tests but the test should not drive the curriculum. However, teachers feel that the Math in Focus program should be taught beyond the items on the SBAC tests. The Math in Focus Assessment is rigorous but are aligned with the Core Curriculum. It is felt that more items from the Smarter Balanced Test should be included in the MIF Assessment.

The survey responses also showed that teachers feel a need for continued PD with regard to the Math in Focus program. Dr. Davis-T. agreed that there is a need to bring back some expert Math in Focus instruction. A possibility is for full day PD with observations in the morning and team meetings in the afternoon. More than one day of PD will need to be provided to meet everyone's needs.

B. NGS Curriculum Revisions:

1. Teachers are still working on grade level units which should continue through the end of this school year. More tools and subscriptions have been provided so teachers can access what they need to develop the units including required standards of the steps of inquiry science.

V. New Business:  
Dr. Ivy Davis-T

A: NGS Curriculum Revisions:

1. The science curriculum is an on-going process that is continuing NGS revisions and unit plan design work .
2. Science will be included on the standards-based report card for grades K-8. Ivy is meeting regularly with teachers to identify the NGS standards to be assessed and the benchmarks that go along with those standards.
3. Teachers will complete a survey to determine the additional resources, materials and professional development that will support and improve NGS science instruction. The

\$10,000 of Title IV money will be expended for that purpose. Any excess cost will be in the 2019-2020 budget.

B. PreK Curriculum Revisions:

1. The state has developed a new preschool assessment program called DOTS (Documentation and Observation for Teaching System) which replaces the previous standards-based assessment framework. DOTS changes the philosophy of preschool assessment to one that relies on observations during daily routines and developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Student centers enable teachers to observe where children are on a continuum of performance in naturally occurring settings when they are using and applying skills based on their interests and engagement. Assessments use multiple sources of evidence gathered over time.
2. Teachers have reviewed the new assessment considering what they need to change to implement it. EAST CONN has developed software that enable teachers to access the standards using a tablet and engage in the documentation process faster than paper and pencil. We will need to provide tablets to both preschool classrooms when the software becomes available.

C. NAEYC Update:

1. We are in the early stages of the process of attaining NAEYC accreditation with assistance from LEARN. We will need some modifications to satisfy NAEYC requirements. The accreditation will move the district in a positive direction.
2. It is a multi-year process.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 4:45.