

RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

6:00 PM

District Board of Education Room

- I. **The meeting was called to Order: at 6:00 p.m.**
- II. **Call to Order—Present: Committee Members:** Keven Jensen, Jana Haack, Tami Alberg, Bill Schmitzer, Barb Sparish, Larry Brown
District Staff: Ashlie Kneifl, Chris Christofferson, Nina Ronning, Carly Gifford, Jeanien Kohlmeyer, Susan Strouf
- III. **Barb Sparish, announced that notice of the meeting was communicated by public notice as required by 19.84 of WI statutes.**
- IV. **Approval of February 17, 2015 meeting minutes:**
Motioned by: Bill Schmitzer
Seconded by: Tami Alberg
All in favor

- V. **Montessori Program: Ashlie Kneifl**
Montessori teacher, Ashlie Kneifl, shared information about the Montessori program. Currently it is staffed by Ms. Kneifl and a part-time aide, Barb Smith. Ms. Kneifl shared different activities students were doing. Many students are working above their grade level.

It is the vision to have the Montessori program continue to grow in both numbers of students and grade levels serviced. Next year it will expand through 3rd grade. At some point if it continues to grow the district will need to split the Montessori program into two classes (3 to 6 year olds and grades 1-3). An additional teacher would need to be hired. The projected enrollment for next year is 22, including one open enrolled student.

Ms. Kneifl has been working to promote the Montessori Program. She has contacted parents of students who will be in 3rd grade next year and have been in the Montessori Program in the past, but are not in the program now because Rice Lake does not provide Montessori at their grade level. One of those students is attending school in another district, but will be returned to the Rice Lake Montessori program next year. Ms. Kneifl has written a PR article and will be working on a Montessori Website.

- VI. **Dyslexia Update: Susan Strouf, Nina Ronning, Chris Christofferson, Carly Gifford, and Jeanien Kohlmeyer**
Speech clinician, Nina Ronning, presented background on dyslexia including the history of dyslexia and a video of how the brain works in a person with dyslexia. Special education teacher, Jeanien Kohlmeyer, explained what dyslexia is and warning signs of dyslexia. School psychologist, Chris Christofferson, provided information on the nine screening tools recommended by Susan Barton that the district is using. Special education teacher, Carly Gifford, shared the interventions that work for students who have dyslexia. The Orton-

Gillingham method works for approximately 85% of the students. The Lindamood-Bell targets auditory discrimination and is used for the other 15%.

Staff has viewed a presentation to bring awareness to dyslexia and classroom accommodations. The current screening data has been reviewed to identify students needing further assessments. In the future this group will continue with educating staff about dyslexia. Professional development will be provided this summer in Orton-Gillingham. Parent education on the warning signs and how to make a referral will be provided.

VII. **Next Meeting:** April 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. **Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn at 7:17 p.m. by Janna Haack and seconded by Bill Schmitzer
All in favor.

Minutes submitted by Barb Sparish March 17, 2015.