

RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

6:00 PM

District Board of Education Room

- I. **The meeting was called to Order: at 6:06 p.m.**
- II. **Call to Order—Present: Committee Members:** Keven Jensen, Bill Schmitzer, Miriam Vavra
District Staff: Melissa Fiamoncini, Kris Britton, Barb Sparish
Absent: Tami Alberg
- 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 May 19, 2015 meeting minutes:**
Motioned by: Miriam Vavra
Seconded by: Bill Schmitzer
All in Favor
- V. **Elementary Literacy – Melissa Fiamoncini**
Elementary Literacy Coach, Melissa Fiamoncini reported on the elementary literacy program. She explained the Literacy Guarantees: Reading and Writing Instruction; Independent Student Reading and Writing; Differentiated Small Group Work; and Grammar, Phonics and Word Study. Melissa shared how she is using data to help drive her staff development to support teachers. Her hope is that in the future less students will be needing interventions.

Journeys is the resource the elementary is using for literacy instruction. This program also has phonics, word study, and spelling components and is very hands on for students. The program fits with the district's literacy guarantees. It has a reading component that including: interactive anchor texts, mini-lessons, comprehension questions, genres, leveled readers, and is multimodal. The grammar component is new and starts in kindergarten and includes specific skills, spiral review, multimodal, and Smartboard lessons for grades 3 and 4. Writing offers mini-lessons, model text, rubrics, and interactive exemplars.

Melissa is working with teachers to learn how to best use the Journeys resources. She is careful not to overload the elementary teachers. Melissa is continually working on monitoring the literacy guarantees, developing an elementary literacy team, providing ongoing staff development, and is hoping to work on assessment and report cards.
- VI. **Everyday Math Update – Kris Britton**
District Math Coach, Kris Britton reported on the elementary math program. Everyday Math took 5 years to truly build Everyday Math 4 that focuses on the Common Core State Standards and emphasizes the Mathematica Practice Standards. Kris explained the changes in the new Everyday Math: content (Common Core Standards Designed), assessment (both formative and summative assessment), open response (ties writing into math), differentiation, and digital resources.

Kris explained exactly what resources the teachers and students received and how those resources are used. Each lesson has a lesson opening page, differentiation, warm-up, focus lesson, standards are listed (including the Mathematical Practice Standards), assessment check in (formative assessment), professional development support, practice, games, math boxes, and home links. Kris demonstrated the teacher and student digital components.

VII. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Update – Barb Sparish**

Director of Instruction, Barb Sparish provided an update on what was being accomplished in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Part of the staff development days have been devoted to curriculum, but this time has been shortened this year due to the ALICE training for each building.

The district has many different things that are helping to improve instruction. Barb highlighted a few. The staff development provided by Melissa Fiamoncini and Kris Britton on the Journeys and Everyday Math is helping provide that clear scope and sequence that the elementary needs. Middle School Literacy Coach, Kasey Bergman is offering a Writing in the Content Areas course that several teachers are taking. Barb is enjoying the time she spends observing classes and is seeing quality instruction and engaged students.

Lastly, Barb gave an update on all of the required state assessments. The Forward Exam will replace the Badger and will be new this year. ACCESS for ELLs will be online this year with the exception of Kindergarten. The ACT Aspire and ACT plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys will be given at the high school level. The Dynamic Learning Maps will be given to a small portion of students. The PALS screener will be required this year. In 2016-2017 the state will require a literacy screener, but each district can choose what screener to give.

VIII. **Next Meeting:** November 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

IX. **Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn at 8:10 p.m. by Miriam Vavra and seconded by Bill Schmitzer. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by Barb Sparish October 20, 2015.