

Curriculum and Program Development Committee

MINUTES

September 26, 2013

Committee Chairperson Jeff Spoehr called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Members of the committee in attendance were Jeff Spoehr, Michelle Swardenski, and John Maurice Boyer. The absence of Kirk Leeser was excused. Administrators Steve Dreger and Susan Nanning from the Administration were also in attendance, as was Kathy Paulus from the World Languages Committee.

Open Forum

No one addressed the Committee in open forum.

World Language Report

Steve Dreger led a review of the World Languages Committee work during their July 10 and August 14 planning sessions. He also reviewed the World Languages Purpose Statement. Committee members offered some general feedback and impressions of the Purpose Statement. Steve indicated they would incorporate that feedback into a revised Purpose Statement.

Kathy Paulus reviewed the enrollment data and staffing information for the Committee members. Staffing information reflected the 2013-2014 school year. The enrollment data was from 2011, 2012, and 2013. The committee asked to see high school enrollment data from the last year that three languages were taught at the high school as a point of reference.

Steve reviewed the parent survey information. It was noted that they were very pleased with the 908 respondents. It was noted that 43% of parents surveyed wanted a world language program to begin in PreK or Kindergarten.

Steve also presented an updated comparables table with FVA schools and also some other state high schools of similar size. Committee members asked for comparables from SMC and Xavier as a way to see if there was any impact on open enrollment losses.

Sue Nanning led a discussion of Essential Questions and next steps. Committee members were in unanimous agreement that we would like to see a world language program begin in Kindergarten for all students if possible. The February 14, 2013 recommendation was to begin world languages in third grade. One committee member recommended an earlier start because of the importance third grade has in a child's education and did not want to overload those students at that critical time with a totally new subject matter. When asked about cost estimates, Steve indicated that a rule of thumb would be one 30 minute section one time a week for one grade would be .5 FTE.

It was agreed that this Committee would meet on the third Thursday of October, November, and December at 5:00 p.m. to continue discussions of the world language program as well as advanced classes at the middle schools.

A few parents arrived late due to problems accessing the building so Open Forum was reopened at 6:34 p.m.

Nancy Lewandowski, 113 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, indicated that we offer fewer foreign language options than other schools in the area, agreed it was important to expand foreign languages to the elementary grades, and asked that administration and the Board develop a firm timeline for expansion. She also shared concerns with the lack of advanced classes at the middle school level other than skipping a grade.

Lori Asbury, 234 Limekiln Drive, Neenah, encouraged more advanced options in the middle schools and suggested some adjustment to the testing requirements be more flexible.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Maurice Boyer, seconded by Michelle Swardenski, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Next meeting will be October 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Jeff Spoehr, Recorder