



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

ROOM 240

MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Barbara Bettis, Jan Booth, Mike Demovsky, Chris Dennison, Heather Fodor, Maryellyn Friel, Heather Hunt, Doug Johnson, Julie Kallenbach, Kathy Megan, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Michelle Rogers Besch, Lavonne Smiley, Nan Strohmaier, Rosa Syphers, Katie Thomson, Pamela Tonyan, Kathleen Turnquist, Renee Zabel, Lynn Glaser

Observers: Lisa Whitmer, Joyce Houston, Tim Davis

Guests:

Presenters: Nan Ochs, Gina Crespo, Carol DePue, Jennifer McDonnell, Susan Ali

Approval of October 15, 2009 Minutes – A motion was made by Kathy Turnquist seconded by Denise Lockwald to approve the October 15, 2009 Instructional Council Minutes with minor changes to indicate two courses, Civil Engineering and Architecture and Computer Integrated Manufacturing are Project Lead the Way courses. Motion carried.

I. Action Items

A. Differentiate Curriculum and Materials for Elementary Gifted Language Arts (SWAS, SET SWAS Grades 4-6) – Motion to approve proposal by Denise Lockwald, second by Michelle Rogers Besch. There was a discussion indicating concern about cost and the lack of funds in the budget. The proposal does include a prioritized list for material purchases. Motion carried to forward to the Superintendent.

B. Advanced Placement Psychology – Motion to approve revised proposal by Heather Hunt, second by Heather Fodor, motion carried to forward to the Superintendent, one abstaining.

C. Advanced Placement Art History – Motion by Heather Hunt, seconded by Barb Bettis. There was much discussion regarding this proposal. Questions were raised about this being presented as a history course and that the Director of Fine Arts was not consulted before this was brought to Instructional Council. The revised proposal is seeking permission to run this course as a pilot at Elgin High School with implementation in 2010-2011. The consensus was that this proposal be returned for further development and changes requested by Steering Committee are considered. Heather Hunt withdrew her motion to approve, seconded by Julie Kallenbach, motion to withdraw carried. Discussion continued resulting in a motion by Jan Booth to return this proposal to Christine LaRue for further development as per Steering Committee and full council recommendations, second by Katie Thomson, motion carried.

D. Addition of Mandarin Language at World Languages and International Studies Academy – SHS – Motion by Denise Lockwald to approve addition of Mandarin

Language to the WLIS Academy at SHS, second by Jennifer McDonnell. A council member expressed concern behind the research leading to Mandarin as the language choice. Call the question: motion carried to forward to the Superintendent with four abstaining.

II. Initial Presentation

A. Proposal to Eliminate Course Offerings for 2010-2011 – Nan Ochs, Carol DePue, Jennifer McDonnell and Gina Crespo presenting. The presenters, members of the Curriculum and Instruction staff, met with the divisionals in the various content areas to review current data and identify courses for elimination. The high school “Course Selection Sheets” will reflect the changes that result from the course elimination process. It was suggested that this proposal be changed to an Information Item. This course information is to be presented to the Board of Education on December 7, 2009. After reviewing the information, the presenters offered to amend the list in table form showing the course number, title, and reason for elimination.

III. Information Items

A. Credit Recovery Update – Susan Ali presenting. Dr. Ali gave the statistics of the program, the number of anticipated students, the number actually taking the course and the number of students passing the course. The major reason for students not recovering credit was due to absenteeism. Four of the five high schools offered Credit Recovery. Dr. Ali shared what had gone well with the course at the high schools and also recommendations to consider in the future. The need for a district-wide attendance policy was articulated. A council member questioned the 60 hour seat time. Dr. Ali indicated that this was based on the 60 hour requirement that students must have to earn credit in summer school.

B. Response to Intervention Update – Carla Cumblad presenting. A PowerPoint was presented showing the different aspects of RtI – teaming, collaboration, assessment, and intervention. Dr. Cumblad spoke about the professional development that has occurred with district administrators, staff of Cluster A buildings, and building teams from Clusters B-E. It is expected that the building teams present the same information to their entire staff by December. District RtI coaches have been working with teams to assist with the presentation of the information.

The RtI web pages are complete and include information about RtI and PBIS. It has an overview, committee activities, upcoming events, links to resources and a lot of additional information. It will be updated quarterly with news from the buildings added monthly.

The application and selection process was completed for the District RtI Leadership, District PBIS Leadership and the LD Eligibility Committee.

A community forum was held in early October with approximately 35 community agencies representing a wide variety of resources for students. Another community forum is scheduled in December.

IV. Dialogue Topic

None

V. Other

A. Dr. Torres – Discussed the status of proposals in light of budgetary constraints, addressing gaps in reading and mathematics curriculum and the need to develop a district-wide curriculum cycle.

B. Elementary Report Card Committee Update – Chris Dennison presenting. Recruiting will begin in January seeking representatives to serve on the committee. A need to include representatives from each elementary building, special program areas, principals and middle school was articulated. Contact has been made with other districts as well as schools within our district to collect sample reporting tools. A trimester reporting cycle could be a consideration since it aligns to the district calendar for assessments and parent teacher conferences. A council member mentioned the possibility of using an electronic reporting tool. A possible goal is to have new reporting system in place by fall of 2011.

C. Instructional Council Website – Lynn Glaser reviewed access to the website. From the home page go to Student Learning, on the drop down double click Curriculum and Instruction. Instructional Council is listed in the Related Topics on the right hand side of the page, click on the link to be directed to the Instructional Council home page. There are links to view the dates, membership list, agenda summaries, minutes and the Instructional Council Manual.