



Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Deb Williams, Pat Selby, Greg Goyert, Bill Eis

1. **New textbook purchases:** The plan from October, 4th, 2011 was reviewed and it was noted that the original timeline would not be met. Bill Eis explained that, prior to administrative recommendations for new textbook purchases; the current textbooks must be inventoried. After review, the following tentative timeline was adopted:
 - a. Staff to complete current textbook inventory by March 13th (March work session)
 - b. Individual departmental committees will then work with administration to draft requests for new textbook purchases. These recommendations will then be reviewed by the District School Improvement Team.
 - c. The superintendent will then make textbook purchase recommendations to the full BOE at the April work session.
 - d. It was noted that textbook purchase decisions need to be made in the context of available funds (? approximately \$40,000) and that GITS textbooks must be aligned with the Common Core Curriculum.
 - e. The potential use of iPad-based texts was briefly discussed
2. **The Curriculum Subcommittee Mission Statement** was revised as follows:
 - a. 'The BOE Curriculum Subcommittee's function is to support and guide administration relating to curriculum issues and initiatives. If the Committee agrees philosophically with the curriculum issue, then it will move forward to the full BOE for further discussion.'
3. **Updates**
 - a. Language Arts
 - i. Focus on 'time on task' and fluency assessment (grades 1-6)
 - b. Math
 - i. Intense area of district focus, particularly in the context of recent MEAP scores. There is a clear recognition that the GITS's math program is not adequately meeting the needs of our students. The math committee is exploring the best available curricula including, but not limited to, 'Trailblazers', 'Everyday Math' (University of Chicago), and 'Investigations'.
 - ii. It is recognized that a comprehensive overhaul of the math curriculum will not be in place until September 2013.
 - iii. In the interim, the needs of GITS students will be met by directing attention to 'conceptual versus computational' instruction with the assistance of WRESA training focused on the Common Core Curriculum.
 - c. Writing
 - i. The process of building summative assessments is now occurring
 - ii. The role of the 'Collins writing program' remains to be determined
 - iii. Deb Williams discussed how similar initiatives dating to the early 1980's were not sustained due to lack of a district writing 'champion.'
 - d. Voyager
 - i. The program is popular with students, teachers, and parents
 - ii. It will be expanded from grades 5-8 to grades 4-8 in 2012-13
 - iii. A brief discussion of objective assessments of Voyager students' achievement highlighted the long-term character of the initiative
 - iv. The potential for wider application of 'project-based' learning was discussed

Adjourned: 6:46 pm

Next meeting: TBD

Respectfully Submitted: Gregory Goyert, Committee Spokesperson