

CURRICULUM AND SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

(Telephonic Meeting held via BCS Bridge Line) **November 21, 2019**

Present: Mike Sobieski, John Huppenthal, Mary Kennedy, Parker Galope, Brittany Murphy, Deb Baca, Annie Gilbert, Gaye Garcia
 Mike Sobieski called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Topic	Discussion	Action/ Update
Standing meeting date/time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Telephonic Meeting to be held: 4th Thursday of the month, 4:00 p.m. 	
1. Curriculum Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connie will send the Curriculum Inventory with the Notice of Meeting. ▪ It will be sent out with the Meeting Minutes for this time. 	Reminder: Send updated copy with meeting minutes each month.
2. Science and Social Studies Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike indicated he wants this topic included as a continuing Agenda item (as a reminder to work on when standards, etc. become available from the state). 	<i>Retain as Agenda Item</i>
3. Curriculum Paradigms	<p>Both Mike and John stated curriculum is being formed and informed by competing world views. It is optimum to add to purchased curriculum as to what is relative to social issues of our time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John indicated a couple relevant hot topics, i.e. “global warming”, “slavery” ▪ Would like to see a robust debate on each of the issues. Important that we show both influences--intermeshing. Teach students to think, reflect on values, and build on foundation that came before, even though flawed. ▪ Students to have a dual perspective. ▪ Global warming – should allow both sides of debate in our science classes ▪ Mike asked how we might implement this comprehensive discussion, when standardized curriculum may not contain both sides of the topic. ▪ Deb commented on the importance of presenting alternate perspectives, so students know how to safely express alternative perspectives and be respectful of other viewpoints. ▪ Teachers are aware we never will we be able to purchase curriculum that expresses all viewpoints and purchased curriculum will inherently have bias. Important to arm our teachers with good real-time research. Encourage to present all sides of arguments, and know where materials are located. Do not indoctrinate, teach, encourage open-mindedness. Make sure teachers have resources to facilitate such discussion. ▪ Brittany was asked if she finds some of the materials convey one side of topics. How can you incorporate alternative view to help students critically think about the issues? She looks with students on websites for other sides, as important to 	<i>Retain as Agenda Item</i>

	<p>tell the truth and present both sides. There can, however, be concern as to how parents perceive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike asked the question: If a teacher has a personal world view about a topic, is there a dissonance in teaching an alternative view? ▪ Parker noted when she was teaching in high school, alternative viewpoints and different ways to look at things were constantly talked about. Students learned to be critical thinkers and back up statements with research/facts. There is a student website that encourages critical thinking in the classroom: https://www.edutopia.org/topic/critical-thinking ▪ Mike summarized that it sounds as if our educators are in synch. and are presenting both sides on “battle ground” issues, assuring all opinions are included and should be reflected. ▪ Mary encouraged teachers to be age appropriate as to how the need to respect ideas is communicated. The goal is to learn. ▪ John shared a quote by Albert Einstein “Believe none of what you read—assume it is all incorrect.” How do you prove what is wrong in a scientific way? 	
<p>4. Curriculum Updates/Change Request Process</p>	<p>Mike touched on the subject of teachers having ability to bring curriculum needs forward and what does that look like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently teachers bring curriculum needs/wants/desires to their principals. ▪ Gaye spoke about Star Leadership team selecting curriculum samples and facilitating meetings. ▪ Teacher is front line and the professional to reach a more diverse learner. Important to have consistency so we do not have gaps. Assure supplemental materials are complimentary to the curriculum. ▪ Mike indicated in summary that our process sounds like it is organic and happens in a natural and productive way. ▪ Gaye indicated teachers at Hearn share best practices. Have a forum at weekly meeting where this can be shared. Deb indicated Val Vista has a similar process. ▪ John would like to see a time when we can have high-quality level videos used as outstanding classroom examples. ▪ Mike stated we inevitably will be moving to a standardization across campuses for some things—scalability/growth, implementing consistency across entire system as it grows. ▪ Curriculum Committee members serve as ambassadors. Share with your colleagues this is a natural growth component that will be happening over time. 	<p><i>Retain as Agenda Item</i></p>

5. Summary and Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike stated he is being reflective during this Thanksgiving season and is very thankful and appreciative for working with great people doing good work for the benefit of our students. 	
6. Next Committee Meeting Date	Thursday, December 19 4:00 p.m.	

The Curriculum and Systems Committee meeting was adjourned by Mike Sobieski at 4:37 p.m.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Connie Johnston, Board Coordinator