REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 40

Friendship • Union • Waldoboro • Warren • Washington 1070 Heald Highway, PO Box 701, Union, Maine 04862

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Steve Nolan, Superintendent Christina Wotton, Assistant Superintendent Karen Pike, Business Manager Karen Brackett, Director of Special Services

Curriculum Committee Meeting Thursday, February 11, 2020 Virtual or at Central Office 5:00 p.m.

Join by Computer: Audio and Visual	or	Join by phone: Audio Only
meet.google.com/ubi-enjt-cmn		(US) +1 302-643-2539 PIN: 961 428 283#

Committee Members: Sara Andrews, Erik Amundsen, Morgan Hynd, Emily Trask-Eaton, Bob Williams and Melvin Williams

Ex-Officio Members: Danny Jackson/Board Chair, Steve Nolan/Superintendent, Christina Wotton/Director of Instruction and Linda Pease/Principal Medomak Valley High School

Minutes

I. Call to Order 5:01

A. Declaration of Quorum: yes

B. Note Absences: Bob Williams (excused)

C. Approve Minutes from January 14, 2021: Melvin Williams moved to approve and Sara Andrews seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.

II. Action Items

III. Other Items

A. Courses of Study (25 min.)

i. Christina Wotton: reviewed the required Courses of Study mandated by the state and what our district is able to provide to meet that mandate. We still lack curriculum for elementary students in world language and health. We were able to add world language for the middle school with American Sign Language.

ii. Linda Pease, MVHS: Medomak's graduation requirements go a little beyond the minimum standards required by the state. This can all be found in the MVHS Program of Studies 2021-2022 document and it includes the Mid Coast School of Technology offerings. Some highlights for next year include offering French through online and online virtual high school instruction. MVHS will be adding Advanced Placement Statistics in place of one of the AP Calculus courses. MVHS will also reintroduce Psychology but the dual enrollment Criminal Justice class will not be offered. World History will become World Geography so the course incorporates current world geography along with important historical topics. This will allow for more flexibility to connect the curriculum with current events. The English PSAT PREP will be eliminated and the SAT PREP will change to Nonfiction Reading which will still prepare those students who do want to take the SAT.

For discussion at a future Curriculum Committee meeting: discuss lack of health and world languages at the elementary level.

MOTION: Melvin moved to approve the Courses of Study document to send to full board and Erik Amundsen seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to send to whole board for approval.

B. Curriculum – Social Studies, what is being taught?

i. Elementary School (15 min.)

a) Gaylea Hynd, 5th grade teacher Friendship Village School: reviewed what is covered in the 5th grade curriculum. Lack of time to devote to social studies makes it challenging to get through as much of the curriculum as they would like. They have 20 minutes in a day to devote to either social studies or science. It is incorporated into the ELA as much as possible. b) Edie Berger, 6th grade teacher Miller School: When ELA and social studies are completely integrated it is more effective. Intrigued by history through geography, which connects with economics and culture. 6th graders sometimes are assigned a passion project that covers westward expansion.

There is alignment between the different grade levels/schools, but each of the schools have different resources. Gigi also suggested that there should be more coordination of which grade levels are addressing which points in history.

At Miller school they are teaching Native American studies through 4th grade.

ii. Medomak Middle School (15 min.)

a) Mark Davis, MMS Social Studies Teacher: Mark was unable to attend but sent in a video that outlined how MMS approaches social studies in combination with reading.

iii. Medomak Valley High School (15 min.)

a) Samantha Burke, Social Studies Teacher: Sammy teaches Government and other electives and reinforced the need for repetition of content to make sure the students retain the information over time. In her Humanities course they look at cultures around the world. Her Maine history class is being redeveloped to incorporate more about Wabanaki studies. This has been an interesting year and half for the teaching of Government. Integrated civics resources for all of the teachers in the district would be great for the district to think about.

b) Scott Hastings, Social Studies Teacher: Freshman take World History and some take the AP Human Geography. Sophomores don't have a requirement for social studies because graduation only requires 3 years. Junior year is US History with an AP option. Senior year is Government & Economics. See Courses of Study document for more on elective options.

C. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Recording (5 min.): This recording is now available and will be shared with the full Board. It is available on the district's wellness page: <u>https://sites.google.com/msad40.org/rsu40-community-wellness/home</u>

The implicit bias training will also be available soon.

D. How is in person instruction going? (5 min.): Feedback so far is that school is going very well and some schools are feeling like they may be ready to open to 5 days a week. The High School's honor roll was well populated despite the challenges of pandemic learning.

E. +/Delta Exercise (5 min.) Not completed due to time constraints.

IV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:37.

Curriculum Committee Norms:

- Start and end meetings on time
- Follow the agenda
- Maintain positive intentions for each meeting
- Listen respectfully without side conversations and be open to different opinions
- Ensure evidence-based decision-making with students at the forefront of all decisions

All meetings of the Board, except executive sessions, will be open to the public. All actions of the Board will be taken openly and the deliberations leading to Board action will likewise be conducted openly. The public and district employees are encouraged to attend Board meetings. A time of up to thirty minutes in duration for comments by visitors at Board meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of the Board's agenda. Board committee meetings are open to the public. Public input is welcomed but the Board Chair may need to limit discussion.