

Regional School Unit No. 18
Educational Programming Committee
Minutes
December 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Those present: Gwen Bacon, Frank Brown, Glenn Davis, Lora Downing, Dodi Leighton, Linda Laughlin, Nancy Reynolds, Becky Seel and Laura Tracey.

Gwen Bacon shared the proposed changes in the High School course of studies for fall 2010. Changes are to be made in 3 content areas: Art, English, and Math, offering students more options in course selection.

Art

Two new courses:

- **Photo Stories**, a ½ credit photography class open to students with or without prior photography experience.
- **Metal Sculpture**, a ½ credit class in metals using various tools including the PlasmaCam laser cutter. It will include welding, riveting, and other joining methods to create 3-D artworks. This will be a crossover course with Tech Trades with the two courses working together.

English

A change in format of the current offerings of Junior CP2, CP4, and Senior CP2 and CP4 was presented. New offerings will offer students options for developing reading/writing skills and a variety of pathways to college level course work, including AP courses.

- **Jr. English** will provide students with support in developing fundamental skills in reading and writing. Emphasis will be on improving reading comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction, developing vocabulary, and improving writing skills. Priority will be given to juniors.
- **College Composition** is a dual enrollment course with KVCC. Students must pass the Accuplacer © exam as a condition of registration. Priority will be given to seniors.
- **Communication Art** is a project-based course that blends experiences in research, writing, reading of nonfiction and literature, and multimedia production to develop 21st literacy skills. Students will be heterogeneously grouped. Seniors will be given priority.

For juniors and seniors:

- **American Literature and Composition** is a college preparatory course focusing on the close study of great works of American literature. The writing assignments will be in response to the literature being studied.
- **British Literature and Composition** is a college preparatory course focusing on select British literary works. Reading and writing assignments are similar to the American Literature course. Juniors planning to take AP literature in their senior year are encouraged to choose a different option due to an overlap in curriculum.
- **AP Literature and Composition** is designed for highly motivated English students who want the challenge of a college English Class while still in high school. Students will read and analyze British and American literature.
- **AP English Language and Composition** is designed to teach students to become highly effective readers and writers on non-fiction prose.

- **Writing for College and Beyond** is a composition course, similar to the dual enrollment College Composition course and is designed for students intending to attend a two-year community college program.

New Courses

These courses will be offered as a pair of topics, one will be the focus of the first half of the course, and the other will be the focus of the second. The paired topics cover the scope of the reading, writing, and thinking skills demanded by a rigorous four-year college prep curriculum. These courses are open to both juniors and seniors for English credit.

- **The English Language: Grammar, Style, and History**
Shakespeare: A Study of Two Plays
 - **The English Language** will provide students with an opportunity to study in detail our language, both as written and spoken today, and as it has developed over time.
 - **Shakespeare** will provide students with the opportunity to do close analytical reading of two of Shakespeare's plays.
- **Reading and Writing Poetry and Songs**
Introduction to Philosophy
 - **Reading and Writing Poetry and Songs** will provide students with an opportunity to read poetry and songs and to make both analytical and creative responses to the texts they read. Students will develop vocabulary and reasoning and writing skills. No previous musical knowledge is required.
 - **Introduction to philosophy** will provide students with grounding in philosophical reasoning to improve written and spoken arguments and to increase a student's understanding of the written and spoken arguments of others. Students will study logic and explore a wide range of philosophical ideas. Students will analyze arguments and develop their own written arguments.

Math

The Math Department presented a proposal that deletes the offerings of Algebra II and III courses, CP2 and CP4 and has proposed to add the following:

- **Algebra 2 – Part A (CP4):** Students will focus on problem solving and involving real life application and higher order thinking skills. Hands-on activities, projects, and technology will be used throughout the course. 1 credit – 1 semester
- **Algebra 2 – Part B (CP4):** Students will focus on Algebra skills with an emphasis on data analysis, probability and statistics and extensive attention to word problems involving real life applications and higher order thinking skills. 1 credit– 1 semester
- **Algebra 2** (semester course) (CP4) Part A and B above will be covered in a semester course. 1 credit
- **College Algebra (CP4):** A dual enrollment course with Thomas College. The central theme of this course is real-world application from traditional disciplines such as the physical sciences and engineering, as well as applications from business, economics, social sciences, life sciences, health sciences, sport and other areas of student interest. 1 credit MHS and Thomas College.

Curriculum Update

- **Inform Program Training**
 - Linda Laughlin reported that she is waiting to get a training date when teachers could be trained using District data. The program compliments Power School and will allow teachers to input data regularly in detail. The data will be available for viewing by others in the District for progress monitoring and RTI support. This will also provide longitudinal data on individual students.
- **Math District-Wide Data Review**
 - This work has started and needs to be done prior to math curriculum work. The EPGY pilot program is part of this data review. To date there has been no cost to the District for this program.
- **Science and Social Studies Curriculum**
 - Course offerings at the High School are being reviewed. No new options will be offered for the fall of 2010. District wide curriculum review has been put off until the New Year due to testing, illnesses, etc.
- **PK-2 Literacy Agreement Implementation**
 - Teachers are using the agreements and will be involved in “make and take” materials creation.
- **Literacy Professional Development**
 - This is supported by a contract with Public Consulting Group: Center for Resource Management (PCG: CRM). A yearly contract with Julie Meltzer funded by Title II and some Title I funds. It covers all grade spans.
 - PK-2 project was completed in October.
 - 3-5 engaged in the implementation of peer coaching.
 - 6-8 writing project, peer coaching, technology use, and a moodle has been started.
 - 9-12 currently using focus groups to build capacity for work at this grade span.
 - work on the English curriculum continues
 - writing and technology to include science, social studies, and fine arts
- **Update Regarding English Curriculum Work**
 - Sophomore English Curriculum
 - Consultant working with High School English department – A proposal is being reviewed with feedback to be provided to the department. When this work is ready for pilot it will come to the Ed Programming committee.
- **Recertification Plan Development**
 - Each district has a teacher who handles recertification at the local level; this is a paid position. To date this has been an internal process – China has its own plan, and SAD 47 has its own plan. This will be part of the teacher negotiations for RSU 18.
 - China currently requires credits in course work.
 - SAD 47 currently requires course work OR credit for professional development participation.
 - Teachers from both units met and agreed that actual course work would not be required, but work must be in an area of focus.
 - The plan for new teachers is based on legislated requirements.
 - The new plan will come to the Board in January.

Update regarding RISC work

- **Beacon Teacher Training: December 13-16, 2009**
 - This is level II training. Participants must have attended level I.
 - Four administrators will attend.
- **RISC Winter Symposium**
 - For teachers and students – Portland, January 20-22, 2010
- **Rich DeLorenzo: MHS January 25th 6:00 p.m.**

Future Agenda Items

- The following future agenda items were presented
 - NCLB Grant Overview – Title I stimulus (salaries)
 - Professional Development Plan – January
 - NECAP results
 - ESL programming
 - Kuder© Program Demonstration
 - District Vision Development work
 - End of March
 - Second Step Guidance Curriculum – Elementary Guidance

Round Table/Other

- Flu Clinic Update – Maine General Health has scheduled booster shot clinics
 - 1 clinic/district
 - For those under 10 or anyone who did not get the first shot
 - Those with respiratory issues are not candidates for this clinic.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Downing, Chair
Educational Programming Committee