

**Learning Committee Minutes
Mukwonago Area School District
June 1, 2015**

Present: Don, Cox, Art Schneider, Cheri Winchowky

Others Present: Samantha Dearey, Mark Doome, Madisyn Fairchild, Don Harr, Mary Koski, Lee Libecki, Shawn McNulty, Jodie Pease, Nick Reichhoff, John Strobusch

Citizens' Comments: None

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 4, 2015, meeting were reviewed. **MOTION.** Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes. Winchowky seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXTENDED TRIPS OR FOREIGN STUDY TOURS

John Strobusch, PVMS teacher and sponsor of the Washington D.C. presented an overview of the curriculum connections the Washington D.C. trip provides. Students meet with teachers/sponsors both before and after the trip to learn about the federal government buildings, museums, and memorials they will visit and their connections to social studies, science, and language arts curriculum.

SECONDARY SCIENCE: PERMISSION TO PILOT

Jodie Pease, PVMS Science Chair; Don Harr, MHS Science Chair; Lee Libecki and Mary Koski, administrators to the Science CAT presented an overview of the recommendations for changes to science curriculum and recommendations for textbooks to pilot.

MHS and PVMS science teachers reviewed changing expectations (i.e. changes to elementary curriculum, changes to graduation requirement of three years of science, and changes to state assessments ACT and WorkKeys). Based on this review, the MHS science department recommended changes to the course sequence including biology as the freshman course. PVMS recommended changing areas of focus within the current course offerings.

The following textbooks were proposed for pilot during the 2015 – 2016 school year:

PVMS

Grade 7: Life Science (McGraw-Hill), Interactive Science: Life (Pearson), Life and Environmental Science Techbook (Discovery)

Grade 8: Earth Science (McGraw-Hill), Interactive Science: Earth (Pearson), Earth and Space Science Techbook (Discovery)

MHS

Biology I and Honors Biology: Biology (McGraw-Hill), Biology (Pearson)

Foundations of Chemistry and Physics: Physical Science (McGraw-Hill), Physical Science: Concepts in Action (Pearson),

Chemistry I and Honors Chemistry: Chemistry-Matter and Change (McGraw-Hill), Chemistry (Pearson), Living by Chemistry (Bedford, Freeman, & Worth)

Physics: Physics (Pearson), Physics: Principles & Problems (McGraw-Hill)

Geology: Earth Science (Pearson), Earth Science (McGraw-Hill), Essentials of Geology (Pearson)

Meteorology: Earth Science (Pearson), Earth Science (McGraw-Hill), Meteorology (Pearson), Meteorology (McGraw-Hill)

AP Biology: Biology (12th ed.) McGraw-Hill, Biology (Cengage)

AP Physics 1: College Physics - AP Ed. (Pearson), College Physics: A Strategic Approach (Pearson)

Astronomy: Explorations (McGraw-Hill), Foundations of Astronomy (Brooks-Cole)

AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, and AP Physics 2 pilot texts will be proposed at a later date.

MOTION: Schneider made a motion to take the proposal to pilot middle school and high school textbooks to the full board for review. Cox seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PVMS PROGRAM REVIEW

Mark Doome, Lee Libeck, Nick Reichhoff, and Mary Koski presented a summary of the initial stages of the PVMS program review. A review of Wisconsin DPI School Report Card data showed that PVMS is ranked as number 5 of the 44 grades 7 and 8 buildings in the state. A review of “student growth” and “closing the gap” data showed areas for improvement.

Ten years of WKCE data from from high-performing schools in Waukesha County and across the state was also analyzed. Trends were studied.

Based on this initial review, Doome and Libeck identified areas for additional review including: minutes of instruction in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, achievement rates in transition years, curriculum and instructional approaches, course offerings and enrollment, and schedule design and structure.

Ongoing review of the PVMS program will include:

- May/June 2015 - Achievement Data Reviews with ELA, Reading, & Math Staff and Fact-Finding
- July/August 2015 - Review Curriculum, Scheduling Options, and Course Offerings/Enrollments
- Sept/Oct 2015 - Form Advisory Committee, Share Information, and Obtain Parent Feedback
- November/December 2015 - Advisory Committee Presents Findings to Administration and Learning Committee

- January 2016 - Recommendations Reviewed by Administration for Implementation
- February 2016 - Final Results of Program Review with Recommendations to Board

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY JBA: PERSONAL APPEARANCE, DRESS AND GROOMING

The committee reviewed Policy JBA after having received two concerns about the present guidelines. Shawn McNulty recommended convening a committee of staff and parents to review the policy.

MOTION: Winchowky made a motion to convene a committee of parents and staff to review Policy JBA. Schneider seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LEARNING COMMITTEE GOALS

The committee will continue its discussion of goals after the June 8, 2015, school board goal-setting meeting.

Citizens' Comments: None

Legislation: Nick Reichhoff presented a summary of the Joint Finance omnibus motion to amend the budget bill. Provisions include: expansion of the voucher program, open enrollment, course options, athletic/extracurricular participation, academic standards, school accountability ratings, teacher and administrator contract renewals, high school credits through portfolio completions, high school scheduling, virtual charter school accountability, alternate standardized assessments, statewide assessment system, assessment options in addition to PALS, civics test for high school graduation, alternate teacher licensing for technical education, and alternate teacher licensing for other subject.

Board Member Comments: None.

MOTION: Schneider made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Cox seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

THE NEXT LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 6, 2015
Mukwonago Area Schools District Office
385 County Road NN E
7:00 p.m.

[NOTE: Please see the District website for updated information about future meetings](#)