Curriculum Committee Agenda

January 5, 2023
8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen	**Dan Ondich**
Carla Anderson-Diekmann	**Amee Wittbrodt**
Darren Sonenstahl	**Matthew Schempp**
Suzy Bordeau	**Erin Winchell**
Bonnie Jude	**Mandy Kasowicz**
Brenda Ritter	**Cayla Rother**
Gabra Lokken	**Carla Ahrenstroff**
	Kim Pike

BlueSky Charter School Vision:

BlueSky is defining education for the 21st century by creating an individualized, dynamic education for all students. We are committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes and relationships.

BlueSky Charter School Mission:

Bringing quality online education and diverse learners together.

Curriculum Committee Primary Objective: The primary objective of the Curriculum Development Committee is to review and recommend to the BlueSky Charter School Board of Directors on matters pertaining to the content of the academic program, course materials, and method of delivery. This includes, but is not limited to, the review and selection of curriculum and educational materials, review of all class syllabi, common course outlines and learning objectives for use in the program.

Curriculum Vision:

Through high quality curriculum and instructional practices BlueSky will do the following:
1. *Continue to implement and maintain standards-based and data-driven practices*
2. *Ensure MTSS resources are available to all staff and students*
3. *Foster academic and social emotional skills among students*
4. *Provide college and career readiness resources to support student learning and prepare students for post-high school opportunities*
5. *Empower teachers to tailor instruction that equitably meets the needs of a diverse student population that is inclusive of all students*
6. *Develop consistent course design and format that ensures content accessibility for all students; and*
7. *Offer both flexible and structured curricular options for students*

FY23 Annual Focus Areas:

1. Establish a best practice expectation for the number of learning experiences a course should have along with a suggested length range for each learning experience to provide a consistent and uniform delivery of curriculum.
2. Provide training and support for implementing new instructional strategies to improve student engagement and academic outcomes for asynchronous learning experiences.
3. Establish and implement a common end of course student survey that is purposeful and used to improve student outcomes.
4. Review and update the Curriculum Committee vision to incorporate accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

STANDING BUSINESS:

1. [Course revision proposals](#) ([request form](#))
   a. No new proposals

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Partial credit for transferring students (don't complete scheduled enrollment)
   a. Critical question: what constitutes earning 0.25 and 0.5 credit?
   b. If we do award partial credit do we only award P/NC grades? Would final grade times 2 work? Some teachers go by points.
   c. The benefit of awarding credit is that it's transcripted whereas progress grades may not end up counting for students
   d. Discussed that some schools do not like P grades based on past experience
   e. Committee has agreement on continuing to award partial credit but identifies the need to be more consistent in how we determine if credit should be awarded and what grade to award
      i. Need to review other school policies
      ii. Will need to identify our own practices
      iii. Having something that is easy and consistent is critical
      iv. Need to also be clear when to change awarded and attempted credit (update directions)
      v. Review team: Dan Ondich, John Mizeur, Cathy Parker - will bring one to two options back for review
3. Plan for students coming in with 2 to 3 year learning gaps
   a. We are seeing many students who have not attended for 2 or more years due to the pandemic
   b. Leadership has been having conversations with the RCE but there are not concrete answers at this time
   c. Current in class supports are not sufficient and too many would need intervention for current systems
   d. Our EL students are coming in with similar issues and large learning gaps
   e. Do we develop a replacement curriculum? Just adding intervention curriculum in addition to students' current schedules is not sufficient and can be overwhelming
   f. EA support in live classes has been helpful for middle school
   g. How do needs differ between middle school and high school? Will current Reading for

Success and Math for Success meet our needs in high school? They can but are time intensive to deliver and other methods should be explored

h. Older students may not need elective credits so there isn't an incentive to attend
i. Would a daily guided study hall be helpful for these students? Option shared went beyond just academic support, also included mental health supports; skills based instruction and support; the example shared was led by a school social worker
j. Accountability has been a frustration - students either show up and don't work independently or don't show up at all
k. Could we consider a 4 year math sequence?
l. Need consistent identification and tracking system that is quick to respond
m. Our current system doesn't respond until a student starts to fail even if already identified by Renaissance Star
n. Discussed MTSS improvements and implementing MEIRS 2.1, some of these changes may take years to implement
    i. Indicators we currently use:
        1. Attendance
        2. Communication
        3. Quality grade
        4. Pacing/ToDo list
    ii. Other indicators to use
        1. Renaissance Star/standardized testing
        2. Prior academic achievement (failing courses in the past)
        3. Is final/overall grade increasing at an appropriate rate?
        4. Others…
o. Parents/guardians can be a critical resource

4. Special Education Math Curriculum
    a. https://www.voyagersopris.com/products/math/vmath/overview
        i. Could be used as a complement to general education math or for intervention math
        ii. Could be used as a weekly/daily activity
    b. https://www.voyagersopris.com/products/math/transmath/overview
        i. Mandy has used this at previous scores
        ii. Other districts have had significant MCA improvements
        iii. Could be used as a stand alone course - fills gaps/skill building
        iv. For students multiple grade levels behind or with disabilities
    c. Would need to discuss what would be different between intervention and special education
    d. Will start a review and compare to other options and ensure that technical requirements are met

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Number of Assignment Review (will discuss at the next meeting)
    a. Findings from the subcommittee were reviewed
    b. Will begin moving forward with plans in the findings
        i. 50-70 assignment target range
        ii. **Important that all "learning experiences" are designed to be 45-60 minutes**

           iii. **We need to identify more ways to count formative learning experience time (not everything needs a formal assessment)**

           iv. **Identifying strategies and providing training are critical moving forward**

           v. For now we will focus on developing new courses within these expectations and prioritizing courses with over 80 assignments

4. Special Education Update
   a. Need to focus on being more skill based versus credit recovery or assignment support
   b. May change to having targeted disability area instruction Essentials courses
   c. Having ongoing conversations about Concepts courses to have more flexibility in meeting students' individual needs; would keep concept classes for students multiple grade levels below but would not have the matching Concepts courses - would be a grade banded option

5. SEL and Next Steps
   a. Discussed this when we talked about student learning gaps

6. ELA Curriculum Advisory Committee Update
   a. Discussed changes to Concepts classes above; will update on other discussion topics at the next meeting

7. Budget Review
   a. No updates

8. Review of Annual Focus Areas
   a. No additional updates