BLUESKY ONLINE
The School Designed for You

Curriculum Committee Agenda

March 2, 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. [Technology Review Process](#)
3. 5th Grade Development for 2023-24
   a. Discussed the pros and cons of adding 5th grade
      i. Currently we have many curriculum projects and this could be a burden
      ii. Members expressed interest in focusing on getting 6th grade polished and 100% ready before starting a new grade level
      iii. Adding 5th grade now improves marketing
      iv. Adding 5th grade now fits better than other timelines because we will have several major curriculum development projects over the next 3-5 years
      v. Enrollments over the past two years are inconsistent and make it difficult to project for next year if we decide to just expand 6th grade - marketing was identified as a key factor
   b. Following discussion the recommendation is to focus on 6th grade and not move forward with 5th grade development at this time
4. ChatGPT/AI & Cheating
   a. Need to identify new strategies for teaching that account for AI use by students; this is being explored
      i. Exploring inquiry-based learning options
      ii. Evaluating the learning process can help reduce use of AI
      iii. Have students connect responses to personal life
      iv. More exploration of strategies needs to take place
   b. Need to update course syllabus and academic honesty policy and syllabus statement to provide more options for teachers so they can require 1:1 and other measures to identify and address academic dishonesty issues

OLD BUSINESS:

3. 9th Grade Quarter Pilot

     a. Passing data was reviewed indicating that students performed much better during the second quarter
   - i. It should be noted that some students were moved to MP versions of courses and for math (reviewed in more detail) students generally did not perform better after the schedule change
   - ii. A similar trend was identified during the middle school redesign and we see that 1st semester in general has lower passing rates than second semester
   - iii. Earlier identification and intervention is critical moving forward, even if we do not continue with quarter grading
     b. The pilot team is meeting later in the day and will review the data and provide additional recommendations at a future curriculum meeting

4. Special Education Update
   a. Updating Essentials Courses to be skill aligned
   b. Curriculum Writing will begin soon and into the summer
   c. [Course Revision Proposals](#) for review
5. SEL and Next Steps
   a. Did not discuss; moved to the next meeting
6. ELA Curriculum Advisory Committee Update
7. [Number of Assignment Review](#) (carried over from last meeting)
   a. Did not discuss; moved to the next meeting
8. Budget Review
   a. Members were informed that we're working on the budget for next year and encouraged to notify their departments to put in budget requests for next year
9. Review of Annual Focus Areas
   a. See above notes