

Curriculum Committee Agenda

November 2, 2023

8:00-9:00

Members Present:

Amy Larsen	Erin Winchell
Amee Wittbrodt	Gabra Lokken
Alex Schulz	Hanna Coleman
Bonnie Jude	Heidi Kelbel
Brenda Ritter	Jaclyn Weber
Carla Ahrenstroff	Kim Pike
Carla Anderson-Diekmann	Mandy Kasowicz
Cathy Parker	Matthew Schempp - Chair
Cayla Rother	Suzy Bordeau
Dan Ondich	

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*

FY24 Annual Focus Areas:

1. MnMTSS Planning and preparation
2. Inquiry-based learning (and other strategies to engage students asynchronously)
3. Accounting for artificial intelligence in the classroom
4. Use of data to drive instruction and support (Renaissance Star)
5. Basic accessibility issues - highlighted text, fonts, etc.

STANDING BUSINESS:

1. [Course revision proposals \(request form\)](#)
 - a. Beginning Band: Trial was conducted and the technology works; still would like to try live performance audio with a large group to determine the upper limit
 - b. 21st Century Communications: Previously approved but needed to confirm it was in the budget; budget allows for moving forward
 - c. Biology and Chemistry: Non lab versions of the GP courses or combined lab non lab versions; currently we send out kits but a number of students don't use the kits; colleges do require lab experiences and all versions would require at least an online lab experience; our current NCAA approvals are based on the lab elements; committee is in agreement with making a change and the instructional design team will explore what option is best.
 - d. ASL III: Discussed that that would be developed using different curriculum and there have been some issues with the current curriculum so we may want to look at different ASL I/II curriculum; we don't have survey data on enrollments for ASL III, would max out at 10-15 but might be as low as 3-5; committee is approving redoing ASL I/II and ASL III if enrollment projections are high enough.
 - e. Art for Therapy and Wellness: May need to look at a different name to avoid using therapy in the name; would need to ensure this course meets all required standards; potential to have this course be coordinated with a social worker, especially since sensitive topics may come up; committee approved for grades 9-12
 - f. Social Work Course Revision Cycle: Proposal is to start with the oldest course first; will need instructional designer support; currently there are four general education courses; currently all are GP but mostly done independently, but we will review if they can be MP/flex courses or if it is appropriate to incorporate more group activities; this had previously been approved through the budget
 - g. Social Work Library Make-Over: We currently have a library of skill lessons in Moodle that can be personalized for individual students; 100 items are in the library but some have inconsistency in formatting or are outdated; would like to make everything consistent and organize the library; will be seeking funds for 2024-25
 - h. Personal Finance: New standards coming and it will be required for next year's 9th graders to take it in 10th - 12th grade. Still waiting for MDE to finalize their requirements.
 - i. Accounting: Revision of the current class. Hasn't been updated since 2016. Is this curriculum working? If not, it should be addressed soon.
 - j. Middle School Art Courses: Using them for 3 years, but need to be updated to meet new standards. Teacher wants to add more scaffolding, quizzes, and weekly lessons.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. New [Course Syllabus Requirements](#)
 - a. New requirements ask that we identify what assignments or assessments are required; what does required mean? How can we meet this requirement based on current practices? What are exemplar syllabi examples?
 - b. We currently combine MP and GP, not clear if we can do that or if we need to separate them
 - c. Some items can be reformatted
 - d. Need to list specific standards covered (not benchmarks)
 - e. Will need to update the teacher course change processes to ensure everything is getting updated
 - f. This will add to the length to the syllabus; purpose is to provide accountability for the home district
 - g. For the most part we have all elements; will work to update our template going forward
 - h. Brenda will coordinate with Matthew, Jaclyn, Ameer (needs confirmation), Erin, and Alex will form a subcommittee to determine requirement wording
3. EmpowerU
 - a. New SEL curriculum
 - b. Will be utilized for special education and intervention

OLD BUSINESS:

3. New [Course Syllabus Requirements](#) - update discussion
 - a. New requirements ask that we identify what assignments or assessments are required; what does required mean? How can we meet this requirement based on current practices? What are exemplar syllabi examples?
 - b. We currently combine MP and GP, not clear if we can do that or if we need to separate them
 - c. Some items can be reformatted
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4. [Graduation Requirements](#)
 - a. Proposed updates adjust elective requirement to 7 and adds in Personal Finance requirement;
 - b. Committee approved
5. [End of Course Survey Draft](#)
 - a. Please review for the december meeting and come with questions, comments and feedback
6. [Number of Assignment Review](#) (didn't discuss, will review at the next meeting)
 - a. Continued needs

- i. Consistency (scope and time)
 - ii. Lesson development (combining activities into coherent learning experiences)
 - iii. Course completion (or lack of completion)
 - iv. Training
 - v. Need to survey again and determine our current scope after the updates in the Spring or next year
- 7. Competency-based education and student agency (assigned to review independently and members will determine if this is something we want to follow up on at the next meeting)
 - a. [Getting started with competency-based education](#)
 - b. [What is competency-based education](#)
 - c. [Student Agency for 2030](#)
 - d. No interest in exploring this at this time
- 8. Budget Review
 - a. Discussed that project budget is over but supplemental funds exist and are being used for at least one revision project
- 9. Review of Annual Focus Areas