

CPDC UPDATE NOTES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

May 5, 2016

AGENDA

- District & Curriculum Updates
- Overview of Math Curriculum Review & Revision Self-Evaluation Process
- Curriculum Review & Revision Guide
- Student & Educator Support Specialist (SESS) Rubric
- Teacher Evaluation & Development Model Review
- Primary Instructional Materials Proposals
- 2016-17 CPDC Membership

Good News

- Council members shared good news

District & Curriculum Updates

- Budget update was provided by the Superintendent
 - Unusual year as a community due to the loss of the ECE monies from the state
 - Required to cut \$386,000 from proposed budget
 - Approached it as keeping people employed
 - Pleased about what the budget continues to support
 - Enrollment is not going down – front years are growing
 - Next week the voters are going to speak about the budget
- Short curriculum update to Council members from each department
- Current curriculum areas of focus include Wellness, K-5 Science, Spanish, Latin and Pre-School
- EduTect was purchased by EduPlanet 21. The transition has been seamless. The new owner came to Avon following the acquisition and was very impressed with the quality of the work, rigor and everything that has been created by everyone in Avon. Next level of work will be to build Stage 3 in EduPlanet so that everything is web-based and can be accessed outside the district
- Elementary Report Card
 - Revised report card being piloted this year
 - After the first trimester, a major concern was the removal of the comment section

- A group of elementary teachers and administrators was convened to create comment guidelines and comment sections were added to the report card for the second trimester
- Elementary principals will be facilitating the collection of feedback from their teams regarding the new report card
- Feedback will be compiled and the original group will reconvene to make any necessary revisions to the report card for 2016-17
- Screening dates have been set for new students (grades 2 – 12) currently registered for 2016-17 in June and again in August for any new students registering after school ends. Students are assessed in the areas of reading and mathematics
- 2016-17 Assessment Calendar is being finalized and will be distributed prior to the end of the school year
- Staff and Parent Surveys have been distributed electronically. Reminder that if you haven't completed to please do so and to remind your parents to complete the survey. The surveys will close on May 16th at 10pm

Overview of Math Curriculum Review & Revision Self-Evaluation Process

- At the last CPDC meeting in January it was decided to have math and/or ELA go through the review and revision process utilizing the process and guidelines created by the Council
- Decided to begin with math as it is a little more concrete, sequential
- Jaclyn Lawlor and Mary Labowsky began the process with some groups of math teachers and after a number of meetings recognized that the rubric was not accomplishing what the Council had intended it to accomplish
- A meeting was held with Jaclyn, Mary and Donna to discuss what was/wasn't happening and the decision was made to stop at that point so that it wasn't a negative experience for those involved, especially if CPDC members could do some fine tuning based on the questions and feedback from the initial groups
- Jaclyn and Mary shared their experience, feedback they received and insight they had gleaned through their work with Kindergarten, Grade 2, Algebra II, Geometry and Pre-Calculus teachers
 - Rubric indicators 2 (Learning Experiences) and 3 (Assessment) work well for the review horizontally but not vertically
 - The rating headings (minimal/not evident, evolving or highly evident) were much clearer to people to rate their level than the descriptors under the headings
 - Some terminology used in the rubric needs to be defined (e.g., discipline specific terminology, 21st century skills, higher order thinking, evoking sustained involvement)

- Types and range of assessments need to be better defined and possibly exemplars provided
- Council members revised rubric indicators 2 and 3 to be used for horizontal grade/course level reviews
- It was determined that vertical team will review indicators 2 and 3 plus complete indicators 1 (Content, Understanding & Skills) and 4 (Curriculum Alignment)
- The responsibilities of the horizontal and vertical teams were further clarified and defined and a timeline was developed
- Still need to do a little more work on the assessment indicator

Primary Instructional Materials Proposals

- The procedure for approval of primary instructional materials
 - Department or curriculum committee submits proposal to CPDC
 - Short presentation to CPDC – CPDC members vote on the books and requires a vote of no less than 2/3rds approval for books to continue through process
 - Upon Superintendent’s acceptance of the recommendation, he notifies the BOE and a 30 day review period commences – BOE and public have opportunity to review the books
 - After 30 days it moves the BOE agenda and is voted on
- New primary instructional material proposals were presented for grade 1, grade 6, high school English and geometry. Each presenter provided a description of the resources they were proposing and the reason for proposing the item. The proposals for the new primary instructional materials were provided to Council members prior to the meeting

SESS Rubric (Student & Educator Support Specialists)

- CT Common Core of Teaching (CCT) Rubric for Effective Service Delivery was revised and released last fall by the State Department of Education (SDE)
- The decision was made not to implement the new rubric this school year as the plan had already been approved by BOE and SDE for 15-16, plus people had already begun utilizing the current forms/procedures
- The current rubric was compared with the revised rubric
- The suggestion was made to consult with some additional people that would be evaluated utilizing the revised rubric for their thoughts and feedback on its strengths and weaknesses before a final decision is made to implement (or not) the revised rubric

Teacher Evaluation & Development Model Review

- Under BOE Policy, CPDC is charged to review the teacher evaluation plan annually and make any recommendations to the document to the BOE for approval

- Council members reviewed the plan
- Council members are comfortable with how the document is written and will work to continue to improve the process. There were no recommended changes to the current plan
- There were discussions focused around implementation: could the process be more streamlined, could the great step-by-step direction sheets being used in some buildings be shared with the other buildings, there appear to be inconsistencies in the expectations of an informal observation, could schedules be developed so that there is not a “mad dash” of informals in May/June, not everyone is having a discussion or receiving feedback in the 5% and 10% areas of their goal plan during mid-year meetings, would it be possible to have the same SLO for multiple years with different IAGDs, could a different set of SESS observation questions be created that parallel the teachers observation document, etc.

2016-17 CPDC Membership

- The following people were recognized for serving on CPDC as their term ends:
 - Jenessa Blascak, PGS; Julia Cowans-Wilhelm, TBS; Lisa Fenn, RBS; Kristen Jakupco, PGS; Rene Kuhrt, RBS; Ann Perrault, PGS/RBS; and Megan Spencer, TBS

Future Planning

- The three major focus areas for next year will be differentiation, co-teaching and technology as identified at the last Council meeting

Launch

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new. “Socrates”