

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 40

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Steve Nolan, Superintendent

Karen Pike, Business Manager

Christina Wotton, Assistant Superintendent

Karen Brackett, Director of Special Services

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Virtual or at Central Office

5:00 p.m.

Join by Computer: Audio and Visual

meet.google.com/ubi-enjt-cmn

283#

or Join by phone: Audio Only

(US) +1 302-643-2539 PIN: 961 428

Committee Members: Sara Andrews, Erik Amundsen, Morgan Hynd, Emily Trask-Eaton, Bob Williams and Melvin Williams

Ex-Officio Members: Danny Jackson/Board Chair, Steve Nolan/Superintendent, Christina Wotton/Director of Instruction and Linda Pease/Principal Medomak Valley High School

Presenters: Samantha Burke, Eva Benner, Karina Decker, Alanna Starr, Lynda Pinkham, Bethany Goding, Kate Race, Bill Hinkley, Alex Wilbur, Tia Carter, Sophia Harvey

Minutes

I. Call to Order at 5:01 p.m.

A. Declaration of Quorum

B. Note Absences - None

C. Approved Minutes from October 8, 2020,

Motion Melvin Williams Second Erik Amundsen

The minutes were approved unanimously

II. Action Items

III. Other Items

A. Changes to curriculum being offered, delivery and positive highlights

- i. **American Sign Language Feedback from Tia Carter and Sophia Harvey, MMS Students** - The students shared their experiences with the new ASL course offered at MMS. There was a lot of praise for their teacher, Mr. Wilbur. Tia Carter taught us some different words in ASL. Mr. Wilbur shared that this job combines his two passions: education and ASL. The students are very excited about the class and it's great for visual learners. Mrs. Race feels strongly that this was the

right language to bring into the school this year, as compared with a foreign language.

- ii. **Samantha Burke – Social Studies Teacher, MVHS** – The decision to change to all remote has taken a weight off all of the students & staff because it has allowed them to build routine, which had been missing with the hybrid schedule. More students are participating regularly and they know their expectations. Curriculum has been pared back to skin and bones out of necessity to ensure kids learn the most fundamental things. Technology continues to be a challenge, paper packets still being used. Adapting practices to what students need. Remote learning isn't easy and it's not for everyone, but there are silver linings.
- iii. **Bill Hinkley - Math Teacher, MVHS** - Concurred with Samantha Burke. All remote learning is like a truckload of lemons and they're trying hard to make lemonade. Kids are spending too much time on screens. Curriculum continues to be a challenge. Kids feel a little isolated. Missing engagement with other students and adults. Trying to find ways to get kids off their screens and doing more hands on work. Example: assignment that sends them outside to measure something tall near their house. Working to make online classes active and interactive and not just passive screen time for the kids. First Math Meet of the year was very successful - tied for 18th, ahead of some very academically competitive schools. They had two full teams, which was a record number of students participating.
- iv. **Eva Benner - Remote Learning Coordinator, Miller and WCS-** Teaching PreK-3, and finds it easier to build lesson plans based on the same content with different exercises for each grade. Tries hard to not put too much on parents, but there is definitely a lot asked of parents to get kids connected via technology. Meets with students 4 days a week on Google meets. She is also checking in on how things are going at home and checking on how they're doing using emojis every day and knows to check in when they circle frowny faces. Friday is the catch up day for the week. Overall, it's going very well and she's making good connections with the kids virtually.
- v. **Alanna Starr and Lynda Pinkham - Remote Learning Teachers, MMS-** Set up Google meets with as many families as possible early in the school year to build relationships. They're in touch with parents all the time. They're using Google Classroom and several other online programs. They have Google meets daily except on Wednesdays. They offer a full curriculum to all students. Some classes are live and some are recorded. They also do check-ins and attendance every day. Students are attending regularly and seem to be enjoying classes. Parent feedback has all been positive. The breakout room feature of Google has been an excellent new tool. Students like having more time at home and more time to do work at home, and fewer distractions at home, and learning how to manage their time. They also say they feel safe. The kids are very understanding. Mrs. Race mentioned that there are 2-3 kids per day switching from in-person to

remote because it has been so successful, which is a challenge because the middle school doesn't have the personnel to manage the growing group or remote students. Regular classroom teachers are struggling to juggle both remote and in-person kids.

B. Gifted and Talented Program Updates and Invitation

i. **Bethany Goding and Karina Decker - Gifted and Talented Teachers-** Made the decision to go completely remote in the beginning of the year to keep everything consistent. This allows students from across the district to work together. The kids are motivated because they get to choose their own projects. They are able to provide more 1 on 1 with the students virtually because they have more time and opportunity to do so. They are offering a lengthy list of classes. Each course is 10 weeks long with weekly assignments. Students are required to do an hour of work each week. Most students sign up for two classes. Each class has a capstone project to assess progress. Students are also completing class evaluations. They are using Google Meet, padlet, and Pear Deck for virtual learning. They are focused on students' social/emotional needs and have easy access to virtual office hours, virtual lunches, and each student has access to an advisor. They have also created parent support through "G-Teas" monthly. They send out invitations to parents with teabags to encourage parents to participate. This year they're hosting a Fall GT Symposium on November 23&24 from 8:30-2:30 each day. If this goes well, they will host a multi-school symposium this spring. They have developed a "GT Dream Board" with all the trips and events they look forward to holding after the pandemic. They will be hosting a virtual paint night with GT families this winter, and helping with career/college exploration. They're also planning to offer summer "Intensive" courses.

C. Second Step Curriculum – what it looks like in kindergarten

Video of Darci Campbell, FVS Kindergarten Teacher - **Held for next meeting.**

D. The +/-Delta Exercise - **Did not complete for this meeting.**

E. Danny Jackson recommended Board members try sitting in on a virtual class. He sat in on several and found it very illuminating, both about what's going well and what's still challenging.

IV. Adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Curriculum Committee Norms:

- Start and end meetings on time
- Follow the agenda
- Maintain positive intentions for each meeting
- Listen respectfully without side conversations and be open to different opinions
- Ensure evidence-based decision-making with students at the forefront of all decisions

All meetings of the Board, except executive sessions, will be open to the public. All actions of the Board will be taken openly and the deliberations leading to Board action will likewise be conducted openly. The public and district employees are encouraged to attend Board meetings. A time of up to thirty minutes in duration for comments by visitors at Board meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of the Board's agenda. Board committee meetings are open to the public. Public input is welcomed but the Board Chair may need to limit discussion.

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