

## Curriculum Committee Meeting 3/26/26

### **Attendees:**

Gina Kline, Frances Huang, Jasmina Sartini, Alicia Conefry, Jenna Oppedisano, Kerry Ledden, Katie Lichtman, John Flynn, Amy McDonough, Chrisann Newransky

### Upcoming Events:

Garden City PTA Dinner – next Tuesday.

Board of Education meetings – April 14 (part 2 of budget discussion – Gina will attend).

April 22 (another budget discussion – Katie will attend). May 19 (actual budget vote – Kristin will attend).

### Curriculum Committee Meetings:

- April 16 – meeting with Dr. Bowman (in person at HS)
- One more meeting in May – thinking May 27 (Wednesday)

### Board of Education Meeting (3/10/26)

Zero emission school buses

- NY state mandate to convert school buses to electric
- After 2027, all new buses purchased must be electric. By 2035, entire fleet has to be electric.
- Considerations – charging stations, routes, etc. Will this limit district in terms of field trips if it's a longer distance?

### Board of Education Meeting (3/24/26)

Literacy Update:

- Piloting 3 different curriculums

- o Kindergarten to 2nd grade – showed writing examples, living environments, difference between K-1-2. Kids are all learning the same topic. How writing/drawing progress.
- o Phase II – Amplified, launched on the 9th . Phase III launching in early May
- o Piloting all 3 programs. No matter what program district adopts, there will be tweaks.
- o Pleased with horizontal (within grade) and vertical alignment. Students very excited and engaged in the literacy program they've been piloting.
- o Keeping Foundations? They will keep something from Foundations but not sure what.

### Budget and how it impacts instruction:

- K-5 Priorities:

- o New literacy curriculum implementation
- o MTSS math intervention – students needing it have declined

- Middle School Priorities:

- o Adopting extra 20 minutes for math and science
- o Adding 8th grade studio art course. Will get high school credit for that.
- o 7th grade – personal finance course. 12th grade – required personal finance course (embedded within 12th grade history course)

- High School Priorities:

- o How to use AI appropriately
- o Preparing for new spaces (art, science, fitness rooms)
- o Updating classroom furniture to allow for flexible seating
- o Hiring 13 new teachers, 8 replacing retirements and 5 due to bigger class sizes coming up
- o College level Calculus class that will replace Calculus Honors
- o Replace iPads with Chromebooks
- o Bloomberg Center (business courses) at High School (over 200 students have signed up for next year)
- o Partner with Adelphi. Earn college credits for that. - looking to add internships

- Overarching priority for everyone - Portrait of a Graduate

Principal in Middle School – Mr. Escobar will continue for another year

K-2 new literacy program rollout

- Finish piloting by end of June

- Over the summer – Curriculum Circles to train teachers? Have to ask... will get more clarity

Meeting with High School Updates

- Portrait of Graduate. Big topic at High School level. Graduation standards will affect those classes.

- Regents generally. A lot of Regents have changed – questions, expectations, requirements. Inferential thinking..

- Teaching style – make it more uniform, hone in on legacy curriculum, reviewing foundational skills – gaps in those skills coming into High School. Trying to streamline everything.

- Literacy – more vocabulary, communication, looking at things from a different lens – break down information and talk about it – more of a college based approach.

- AI – want to integrate it. Kids use it. Teachers use it. Do it in a professional, accurate, truthful way. Teach students how to use it and not use it as a crutch. That's the goal.

o If you don't know what you are looking up, how do you know that the information you are receiving is accurate. Have to be careful of this. Also don't want AI to become a teacher. As parents, just monitor and make sure it's being used in a way that's not taking over instruction.

- Chromebooks and iPads. Surveyed 100 students – prefer iPad over Chromebook for classroom instruction. Writing for English class – prefer Chromebook over iPad.

- Handwriting. Signing documents. Being able to read cursive. 12th grade – last class that received handwriting instruction. Others did not. Some students do not know how to sign a document. Integrating that more in classes.

Joint Elementary Meeting Updates

- K-2 Literacy Pilot.

o Teachers noticing that annotating has increased reading comprehension and improved student writing.

- o Support teachers get. Companies coming in and working with teachers. Might do demo lesson. Currently happening.
- o Implementation in Grades 3-5. Happening later because of state testing. Once testing is done, will do 3 pilots in 3 separate classes. 2nd grade – using same class for the pilots.

- Foundations

- o Teachers are adjusting pacing. Need to make sure material covered by end of year. Speeding things up.

- o 4th grade – no longer have Foundations. Vowel teams (ou) need more explicit instruction. Designed unit and 4th grade teachers implementing it.

- Wins this year

- o 2nd grade – annotating, pilot was great, land forms they made in science showing erosion
- o 4th grade – native American longhouse project, etc.
- o 5th grade – zoom in and zoom out, minor changes to We the People curriculum

Upcoming Primary Meeting Topics

- Rollout of literacy program. Who is part of focus group? How does it get rolled out to other teachers? What does timeframe look like?
- Math support for Kindergarten and 1st grade. 15 mins of push in support for each class. Hear about their wins. More needs to be done there. Are there plans to move forward with that?
- o Literacy is fantastic. Push in early on. Kids that need reading support. For some reason math is separate...

Topics for Upcoming Meeting with Dr. Bowman:

- Roll out of literacy program and timeline.
- Wrapping up goals for this year. Projected goals for next year.
- If anything else comes to mind, email to Gina.

- *Submitted by Frances Huang*