**Curriculum Committee Minutes**

**Monday, December 2, 2024 7:00pm**

1. Review purpose of the committee

* *To collaboratively share information and feedback about district priorities for curriculum and instruction.*
* *To partner in increasing authentic, interactive, real-world learning experiences for all students.*
* *To partner in creating a positive public understanding of the Garden City Public Schools Mission and Vision for Teaching and Learning.*

1. The high school reps shared out from their November meeting with administrators:

*Is there a change in scores (SAT, PSAT) now that tests are online (too early to tell); the Big 6 of Science of Learning; PLTW and STEAM courses (many students are participating); new elective Cyber Security (part of PLTW curriculum with no prerequisite); discussion of branding the program to get more interested; we need to get info out to parents at the end of 9th grade re: advanced math and science courses (the literacy of languages across courses is different and students are struggling with tests); is there a reading specialist at the HS?*

*An idea was brought up at our meeting to see if we could partner with local colleges/universities for accelerated programs/opportunities for the high school students*

1. The middle school reps shared out from their November meeting with administrators:

*Class size: will it continue to be a problem? Seems to be just a bubble and following classes will go back to a smaller size; teacher assistants will be added; electives are now larger as well; looking at making changes to master schedule to accommodate larger classes and also offer more electives (to help those who might be in support classes); it's in the research stage; nothing will happen this year; Project Based learning is being integrated into all content areas, but not overshadowing other areas of instruction; field trips are tough this year due to limited bussing staff; response to digital citizenship has been good; lack of chromebooks at the beginning of the year helped to get “back to basics” of pen and paper teaching and learning; new science curriculum is impacting 7th graders the most because of the eliminated space program partnership; now doing CELF program which is more aligned with what students are learning (eg: creating discussions on wind farms); literacy briefs were discussed and they’ve been integrated into the MS clusters (team teaching); alternate assessments are being used, however they still have to prep students for Regents and other standardized tests*

1. There were no representatives from the elementary buildings (Stewart or Stratford) in attendance so we were unable to receive an update on their curriculum meeting with their administrators
2. The primary school reps shared out from their November meeting with administrators:

*They met 11/19; Laura Kaufman was also there to speak on literacy (using decodables, fundations and apply phonic skills); more non-fiction topics in literacy; book baggies that students take home; fluency and partner reading books; “read and talk with me” books; choice books (might be advanced but interesting); Tier 1 supports (OT grant for push-ins in kindergarten and speech therapists); family resources (principals sent out videos to parents for help); new innovative learning spaces (studying wind, shadows, ladybugs); Mystery Science was removed from the agenda; more to come in 2025; how is the use of Mystery Science meeting standards? Working on PD around it; what about the gaps in learning?*

1. Next steps: *Reps are encouraged to reach out to building principals with any questions about curricular issues that may arise in the next 2 months before our next meeting in early February (either 2/3 or 2/4)*

| **Date** | **Time** | **Topic** | **Type** | **Location** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wed Oct.9 | 8-9pm | Overview | Committee | Zoom |
| Wednesday 10/23 | 6:00-7:30 | Review of purpose & process | Asst. Superintendent | High School classroom |
| Oct 24-Nov 28 | TBD | Building level meetings | Schools |  |
| Mon Dec. 2 | 7-8pm | Review of goals & tasks; Building mtg reports; PTA grants, PU update | Committee | Google Meet |
| 2/3 or 2/4 | 7:30- 8:30pm | Check-in; review goals & tasks | Committee | Zoom |
| Feb - March | TBD | Building level meeting | Schools |  |
| Late March | 7:30- 8:30pm | Check-in; review goals & tasks | Committee | Zoom |
| Tuesday 3/25 | 6:00-7:30 | Topic TBD | Asst. Superintendent | High School classroom |
| May | 7:30- 8:30pm | Review of year & next steps for 2024-25 | Committee | Zoom |

1. *An overarching concern of this meeting was that many students are struggling when they transition to the next leveled school (ie: elementary to middle school, or middle to high school) with content/subject language, which is having a negative impact on test scores. In order for students to be successful, they need to be proficient in the various languages of all of their core content areas. Is there professional development happening for teachers to ensure these transitions will be as smooth as possible for all students? It is imperative that students are given a solid spiral of teaching and learning that ensures success as they transition from class to class and also grade to grade.*
2. Parent University update: we will be collaborating with the Digital Citizenship committee and are tentatively planning a program for March or April. Gina Kline and Chrisann Newransky will be meeting with Dr. Bowman in early December to start planning.