

Vision: An exceptional, continuously improving learning culture, committed to all!

Mission: Portage Public Schools will educate all students to achieve their potential

Curriculum Instruction Council

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Mike Huber called the meeting of the Curriculum Instruction Council to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Central High School.

Members Present: Jen Bonner, Michelle Braat, Merrie Conner, Scott Cuel, Andy DeVisser, John Dunlop, Donna Emerson, Gina Fisher, Amanda Goyings, Amy Gray, Tara Heywood, Mike Huber, Wes Hyames, Jason Jarrett, Kristin Kelly, Colin Killmer, Elizabeth Kraatz, Rachel Kubinski, Eric Lancaster, Peggy Link, Nancy Martin, Rachel Messer, Amy Meyer, Tony Moon, Ryan O'Neill, Mae Orr, Karen Prater, Greg Rapp, Rachele Reidel, Jan Rice, Mary Roobol, Shelley Rowson, Anne Schnurstein, Kelly Schultz, Matt Tabor, Molly Vandekoppel, Rhonda VanderVeen, Lindsay Wagner, Stephanie Wagner, Karen Warner

Members Absent: Brian Abbott, Andria Carson-Wright, Ben Critz, Zac Crouch, Christy DeHaan, Amy DiMaggio, Bonnie Herbert, Bryan Hill, Larry Killips, Christy Klien, Xiaoan Li, Jeanine Mattson-Gearhart, Effie McCarren, Paul Murray, Megan Richter, Pete Schermerhorn, Chuck Schira, Rick Searing, Lisa Stucky, Mahsa Teachman, Travis Thomsen, Rosa Vergel, Dan Vomastek, Jeanna Walker, Joanne Willson, Jessica Winstanley

Welcome New Members

- Gina Fisher (WMS Parent Representative)

Action Items:

Approval of September 28, 2016 Minutes

Andy DeVisser moved to approve the minutes as written.
Rhonda VanderVeen seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of English Prep Creative Writing Book Request

Jen Bonner moved to approve the proposal as written.
Mary Robool seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of IB World History Proposal

Tony Moon moved to approve the proposal as written.
Merrie Conner seconded. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

Program of Studies

The Program of Studies (POS) provides detailed descriptions of all of our courses and goes out to students and their families for them to utilize when making course selections. We need to make sure this is well articulated and all errors are corrected. Remember, an elementary level Program of Studies will be

replacing the current Learning Expectation trifolds. Please make sure all revisions for the POS are turned into Janet Johnstone no later than November 21, 2016.

Proposals

Leadership for Link Crew Course Proposal

Colin Killmer shared with the committee his proposal for the Leadership for Link Crew course. This is currently running as a pilot course and so far has had great success. NHS would like to incorporate this course as an elective course offering in the 2017-2018 school year. The PowerPoint presentation created by Colin provided the following information to the committee: goal of the course, units of study, cost of the course, value the course adds to NHS, what students can expect to get out of the course and some recent accomplishments.

Processing of Leadership for Link Crew

Did the proposal/presentation have enough details to move forward? If not, what information do you need?

- Yes

What about the proposal helps us meet our District Ends and align with our Vision and Mission?

- Supports all of the District Ends

Has there been enough discussion time to move forward? If no, what type of discussion and what groups need to have input to move forward?

- Yes
- Concern that PCHS doesn't have this running – keep district aligned, should be equitable.

Other processing questions for the proposing team?

- Volunteer/service hours?
Students enrolled in the class would not receive volunteer hours for the time spent meeting course requirements. They would receive hours when participating in events working directly with freshmen, as would students not enrolled in the class.
- How many electives are there and what happens to the pool of electives?
I'm not certain how many electives we currently offer. This course would be a pretty limited enrollment, as it would be <30 students (of the approximately 80 leaders who could enroll). This shouldn't cut significantly into other elective programs.

Note from the Curriculum Office: There are over 120 electives (elective defined as any course not required in order to receive a PPS diploma) currently offered in our 2016-2017 program of studies.

- Can we see some data to support that objectives are being met by students in class, not just freshman?
This year, our enrolled leaders have addressed 4 activities around Team and Climate Building, 2 activities on Organization, 3 activities on Leadership, 4 activities on Communication, and 3 activities on Facilitation/Teaching. Additionally, we have included lessons on body language for speakers and leaders, and how to edit websites (based on the student's desire to improve

communication with the community). Within the curriculum, there are several lessons within each subtopic to build from during the year:

- Team and Climate Building - 10 activities
- Organization - 5 activities
- Leadership - 15 activities
- Communication - 8 activities
- Facilitation/Teaching - 5 activities
- Personal Development - 3 activities
- Each of these lessons revolves around discussion and modeling activities, and can be tied to specific Link Crew extracurricular events for implementation of skills developed.

- This sounds like a semester course. How different is it from CHS Ambassadors which seems OK already and doesn't require a class?

The first semester focuses the leadership training on specific, freshman-focused events (so far, these are our movie night, homecoming involvement, supporting bread-lift, and the upcoming cocoa and cram final exam study session). The second semester looks at broader topics such as presentation skills, communication skills, leadership and team building skills, and doesn't apply them to a specific freshmen event as often. The curriculum course is for 18 weeks, but any leader who could only commit the first semester would gain from it. Students taking both semesters would see different learning objectives.

- Your example of spending one month on planning a movie night seems like an excessive amount of time that could be more academic. How do you address that?

A month would be a long time to plan a movie night, if one person were planning and giving directions to follow. The movie planning was a class project that facilitated many other smaller lessons.

For example: as leaders, when a group needs to act together, they must develop a sense of unity and norms. We spent time discussing our own norms, modeling activities that they could use with other groups they lead to develop norms and trust within teams, and then examining the differences between a simple name-game icebreaker and activities that require the group to open and share. While that is a small piece movie night, it involved two lessons (3 days) focused on Climate Building skills and one class applying those skills to their movie night team. Ultimately, the movie night was a tool for modeling the skills from class.

- How different is it from CHS Ambassadors which seems OK already and doesn't require a class? The Link Crew and Ambassador programs have several similarities. One of the big differences is in how it is run. The ambassador program is currently run by a dedicated Portage Central staff member (not a teacher), who has the ability within his day to pull out and contact and interact with leaders as needed. Link Crew has teacher-volunteers who work outside of school, and who don't have the ability to interact with many of their leaders during the school day. Both Link Crew and the Ambassador programs are extra curricular activities, essentially.

This class offers a curriculum that is built to teach leadership skills applicable to any program. It is a leadership course that uses Link Crew as an opportunity to practice the skills being developed in class. Link Crew, for most members, still functions as an outside of school activity. Leadership for Link Crew is a course that teaches leadership skills and uses the Link Crew extra curricular as a proving ground for those skills, bolstering the program.

- Would taking 9th graders out of class be part of the Link Crew process?

One of our big goals in Link Crew is to NOT remove freshmen from learning environments. Our leaders are responsible for contacting freshmen outside of class. We do hope to work with our freshman focus classes to implement academic presentations that work in conjunction with those classes (we have several academic follow ups that can be implemented, such as time management, setting goals, etc). These academic follow ups are also a way to train our leaders in the skills needed to prepare for, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of, a team teaching opportunity.

Computer Science & Software Engineering Course Proposal

Mike Huber briefed the committee on Kyle Paffhausen's Computer Science proposal. In the past 2-3 years, our middle schools have been offering PLTW/STEM courses and have expanded these offerings to include Computer Science. We want to provide a pathway for what we have offered in our middle schools and this Computer Science & Software Engineering course would offer that. This course would continue using the PLTW curriculum and would become an Education for Employment course. This is a project-based class that has key components attached to it and would all be done at the collegiate level. The course right now has articulated credit at Davenport University. Students have to pass the class with a B or better to earn the articulated credit.

Processing of Computer Science & Software Engineering Course

Did the proposal/presentation have enough details to move forward? If not, what information do you need?

- Yes

What about the proposal helps us meet our District Ends and align with our Vision and Mission?

- Supports all of the District Ends

Has there been enough discussion time to move forward? If no, what type of discussion and what groups need to have input to move forward?

- Yes
- More from CHS would be helpful

Other processing questions for the proposing team?

- What is the employment connection?
Numerous careers can be found under the Computer Science heading: Cybersecurity, software systems developer, software tester, computer programmer, business intelligence analyst, computer systems engineer, computer system analyst, database administrator, network system administrator, web developer, software application developer, desktop or computer information technician, computer game designer, etc. Computer science is the engine that powers the technology, productivity, and innovation in the world.

Under the EFE umbrella there will be a Program Advisory Committees as a required component of State-approved CTE programs. The advisory committee provides expertise of individuals from the computer science industry. The primary purpose of the Advisory Committees is to serve as a resource and a connection to the workplace for CTE teachers, administrators and students. The CTE Program Advisory Committees helps with planning, development, implementation, operation, promotion, evaluation and maintenance of the CTE program that result in continuous program improvement. Program advisory committees include representatives from local computer science business and industry along with postsecondary representation. Advisory Committees members may offer assistance in the classroom with activities and program

requirements. Postsecondary partner participation facilitates alignment of program academic and technical skills with the postsecondary curriculum. The Program Advisory Committee meets a minimum of twice a year.

Program advisory committees define the following:

- business and industry processes, equipment and replication of work environments
 - provide related work-based learning experiences for students
 - worker knowledge and skill needs
 - professional development opportunities
 - input on process to plan and implement relevant CTE programs
- If offered at Gull Lake, is there a need for another satellite or will the Gull Lake class move to Portage Northern?
Gull Lake has a good program that is primarily filled by Gull Lake students. Gull Lake High School is on Trimesters while Portage is Semester based, which doesn't allow our students to take EFE courses due to the difference in the academic calendar. The PN location may have a better chance of transfer student enrollment due to being more centrally located. Additionally, this program will provide PPS middle school students (who use PLTW) a high school opportunity to further their computer science interests.
 - Is there a potential impact to the World Language department due to this being a language course?
Currently other EFE classes taught in our department such as Accounting, Business Management, and Marketing gives students the possibility to earn 4th Year Related Math credit, 3rd Year Science, and / or 2nd year World Language. These opportunities to earn credits allow students who may be struggling or have struggled in these subjects a different avenue to receive these credits. A majority of our business students in these classes are taking them not for the credits, but for all the other opportunities our EFE classes offer (content, articulation credits with local colleges, employability skills, etc.).

Note from the Curriculum Office: While the state and our district policy recognizes coding as a language for its two year requirement, PPS continues to recommend two years of a spoken world language as a good choice for students who are college bound.

- Why did you go with the non-AP Computer Science course?
This class is an introduction to Computer Science / Software Engineering. If our numbers grow we can look into adding an AP (or IB) Computer Science class in the future.
- What class to take next, or before? Are there any prerequisites?
There are no prerequisites; this will be a yearlong introductory class in Computer Science and Software engineering. There are a couple of classes that could be taught after the Computer science / Software Engineering class. The descriptions of the next two classes are as follows:

Computer Science A: Computer Science A focuses on further developing computational-thinking skills through the medium of Android™ App development for mobile platforms. The course utilizes industry-standard tools such as Android Studio, Java™ programming language, XML, and device emulators. Students collaborate to create original solutions to problems of their own choosing by designing and implementing user interfaces and Web-based databases. This course aligns with the AP CS A course.

Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity introduces the tools and concepts of cybersecurity and encourages students to create solutions that allow people to share computing resources while protecting privacy. Nationally, computational resources are vulnerable and frequently attacked; in Cybersecurity, students solve problems by understanding and closing these vulnerabilities. This course raises students' knowledge of and commitment to ethical computing behavior. It also aims to develop students' skills as consumers, friends, citizens, and employees who can effectively contribute to communities with a dependable cyber-infrastructure that moves and processes information safely. Cybersecurity will be available fall 2018.

- How likely will it be that students will travel to NHS to take it? Would be nice to have at CHS. Not sure on the actual numbers but in my BMA class which is offered in most local high schools I have had students from Hackett and K-Christian in my class. With Computer Science only being taught at Gull Lake (Gull Lake High School is on Trimesters), Portage Northern would be more centrally located and could potentially have students from any of the surrounding high schools (Hackett, K-Christian, Vicksburg, Schoolcraft, Portage Central, Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix, Comstock, Parchment, Climax Scotts, and Galesburg).
- Will both high schools be on board at some point? That is up to Portage Central. We have brought the proposal up to PC's business department but there was no interest in adding another class at this time. With it becoming an EFE class, students who are interested in taking this course are able to travel to Northern to take Computer Science / Software Engineering from Portage Central or any of the other surrounding school districts.

Note from the Curriculum Office: Decisions regarding allocating a course to run are made primarily at scheduling time (e.g. if 60 students sign up for an elective, we attempt to run two 30 student sections - but if only 30 students sign up, we run one section. So the primary factor in scheduling is student requests for courses.) With the extensive training and technology material needs for a course of this nature, we plan these courses approximately 1.5 years ahead of schedule.

- Will we be allowing CHS students to go there for now?
Yes
- What grade levels will be in this course?
All grades 9-12

Note from the Curriculum Office: We are still awaiting the Information Technology review of the course, its equipment, and its connection to our existing computer and technology infrastructure.