

NORTH MAC COMMUNITY UNIT #34
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
GIRARD MEDIA CENTER

Date: November 20, 2012

Time entered into meeting: 6:34 p.m.

Location: Girard Media Center

Members Present: Steve Furman
 Robyn Hays
 Scott Etter
 Charles Handy
 Farley Cole
 James Matuska

Members Absent: Mark Sloman

Person taking and recording minutes: Marcia Cullen

Also Present: Kim Eldridge
 Sherri Gerdanc
 Eric Lancaster
 Diane Moore
 Becky Hampton
 Jennifer Actuality
 Lindsey Definers
 Angela Norman
 Connie Schroeder
 Coleen Smith
 Randy Smith
 Georgia Brewer
 Dixie Gage
 Anna Allen
 Matt Allen
 Fred Mulacek
 Craig Fess
 Gail Langheim
 Kay Cameron
 Alan Love
 Jackie Jones-Myers
 Madonna Wempen
 Everett Cameron
 David Spann

Curriculum Discussion

Robyn Hays provided an opening statement focusing on the priority to provide quality electives and maintain class sizes.

Georgia Brewer asked that special education not be hurt (those who are already on the edge). She asked for a focus on core subjects to help our students get ahead.

Fred Mulacek suggested using an early bird program and cutting from 8 periods to 7 periods a day to realize a cost savings.

Steve Furman commented that the District is not removing courses from the handbook.

Robyn Hays suggested we think about establishing a number where a class isn't offered.

Randy Smith commented that we don't have a set number for some courses ex: calculus (no hard and fast number).

Steve Furman stated mid-year graduations often result in extremely small second semester class sizes at the high school.

Jackie Jones-Myers said she supported consolidation to have better offerings and more college prep courses. However, the consolidation may have resulted in too many choices. We should look at what's the most important to the majority of students and to what is required to be offered.

Kay Cameron spoke to the impact on class size when fewer electives are offered.

Anna Allen addressed the importance of class size. She stated more than 25 kids in a class is not effective to teach because the teacher can't meet needs with big classes.

Fred Mulacek commented that a decrease in enrollment is not happening and asked if enrollment would hold if we cut all the extras.

Connie Schroeder asked if high school classes could be done as co-op with other districts.

Gail Langheim commented on the \$7,000 tuition per year and the importance of business classes with particular emphasis on the marketing class.

Charlie Handy pointed out business classes have disappointing numbers.

Jackie Jones-Myers commented we offered too many electives and have been giving kids lots of choices. As an example she questioned the need for so many home economics offerings. We need to challenge students.

Robyn Hays stated elective offerings must also include the needs of career – bound students.

Technology and Curriculum Discussion

Alan Love asked to get rid of textbooks and go to all online to save on costs. The district should seek grants to provide the devices or utilize a lease option to pay to own over time.

Robyn Hays stated the costs up front would be difficult to overcome. We might need to freeze the textbook rotation as a cost savings measure. Online textbooks would require yearly required subscription fees.

Steve Furman said an online learning approach will also include extra budget for technology support and service personnel in addition to upfront technology costs.

Bob Butler asked about the difficulty for students without internet access at home to keep up.

Fred Mulacek responded that perhaps Royell might negotiate rate for any family to get reduced cost for monthly subscriptions. Williamsville has special deal for families or perhaps business sponsors could provide access in whole city.

Class Size and Attendance Centers

Randy Smith asked the Board to consider the savings to be realized by increasing class size by running different models and scenarios.

Diane Moore commented that increased class size would result in lower test scores. Charlie Handy asked where was the evidence to show that student achievement would decline.

Jackie Jones-Myers commented that children will fall through the cracks.

Fred Mulacek asked is the community ready to have attendance centers for the stronger curriculum alignment and program?

Randy Smith asked what would be additional routes and costs for attendance centers.

Steve Furman and Robyn Hays commented that implementing attendance centers would be hard for the community.

Time of adjournment: 7:35 p.m.

President

Secretary