

**Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Curriculum Advisory Committee**

Minutes of March 1, 2018

Mrs. Daml called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Administrative Center, Curriculum Library, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska. Mrs. Daml is facilitating the committee meeting while Mrs. Hadaway is out of town.

Members Present:

Paula Addis	Tara DeVaughn	Dr. Heather Willis
Kyra Aizstrauts	Earnest Kincade	
Dr. Obadare Awoleke	Allyson Nicholson	Timothy Doran
Dr. Leah Berman Williams	Earl Peterson	

Members Absent:

Oscar Beausoleil	Svetlana Nuss	Melanie Hadaway
Joe Dallaire	Fé Seymour	
Sharon Hildebrand		

Staff Present:

Jennifer Morgan

Guests Present:

Michelle Daml
Dr. April Scott

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Berman Williams moved to accept the March 1, 2018 agenda; Ms. Aizstrauts seconded. Hearing no objections or comments, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Aizstrauts moved to accept the Feb 1, 2018 minutes; Dr. Berman Williams seconded. Members reviewed the minutes. Hearing no objections or comments, the motion was approved.

CURRICULUM REVISION

CTE Health Science Curriculum

Dr. April Scott, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator with the Dept. of Teaching & Learning, listed the changes to the third draft of the CTE Health Science Curriculum.

The title of the Medical Receptionist Program of Study was change to Medical Front Office Representative. Dr. Scott explained that industry representatives would like to avoid the feminine connotation associated with the word receptionist, and that the receptionist title is misleading because the job requires more than answering phones. Mr. Peterson and Dr. Berman Williams pointed out a couple pages in the document that still contain the old title and need to be updated (footer and the description sections). Mr. Peterson mentioned the UAF certificate listed in the curriculum uses the word receptionist, and questioned whether students would know the certificate is needed if the program title is changed. Dr. Scott explained the title of the Program of Study does not have to be based on the name of the certificate; which certificate is needed for the program will be explained to students.

Dr. Berman Williams explained that some of the math courses listed in the Appendix under the Biomedical Program of Study (13th year) are incorrect UAF requirements. For example, Calculus I or MATH 230

should be listed for semester 1, and Calculus II or STAT 200 in semester 2. Dr. Berman Williams and Dr. Scott will meet and update the math courses to align with what UAF requires.

The Appendix of the CTE Health Science curriculum will be amended to include the following: change Medical Receptionist to Medical Front Office Representative, and correct the math courses in the Biomedical Program of Study (13th year). **Mrs. Daml called for a vote to approve sending the CTE Health Science Curriculum as amended to the School Board for review and adoption. With all in agreement and no further comment, the motion was approved.**

CAC Recommendation Letter

A draft CAC recommendation memo, based off previous committee memos, was presented to members. It stated the committee is recommending adoption of the CTE Health Science Curriculum by the School Board. Members were given a few minutes to review the memo. No comments were made at that time and Mrs. Daml called for a vote to approve sending the recommendation memo to the School Board. Hearing no objections or comment, the motion was approved.

After the vote, Mr. Peterson brought the group's attention to the word "equity" in the last sentence of paragraph four. He questioned whether this is the right word, or if another word might be more appropriate. At the time, the group decided to proceed as is.

Later in the meeting, during general comments/questions, Dr. Berman Williams proposed a friendly amendment to change the word "equity" to "opportunity;" Ms. Aizstrauts seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. **Mrs. Daml called for a vote to amend the last sentence in the fourth paragraph of the CAC recommendation memo to read as follows: the CAC supports the vision of providing opportunity and access for all students in the CTE coursework and post-secondary career planning. Hearing the majority in agreement and no further comment, the motion was approved.**

World Language Curriculum

Dr. Scott updated the committee on the progress of the World Language Curriculum revision. This curriculum was recently available for public comment, and the World Language writers will meet on March 5, 2018 to review the comments and suggestions. Separate phone conferences have been scheduled for writers unable to attend the scheduled meeting. The plan is to have the third draft of the curriculum available to present to the committee at the next meeting.

Dr. Willis inquired if the committee will vote on the World Language Curriculum in April. Dr. Scott is hopeful that the curriculum will be ready for a vote in April.

TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS

Middle School Science

Dr. Scott informed the committee that, after reviewing the comments from the textbook and materials review, there was a tie for the top middle school science materials selection. She plans to ask several Science teachers to meet, discuss the options, and decide on a final recommendation. The top three choices from the textbook and materials review are *STEMscopes*, *Interactive Science*, and *Life iScience*.

Mrs. Daml remarked that there were lots of reviews submitted and in-depth comments. She also mentioned that in April a state committee will start reviewing and revising the Alaska Science Standards.

UPDATE ON THE REQUEST TO VIEW DOCUMENTARY

Ms. Morgan addressed the committee's previous request to view the *Most Likely to Succeed* documentary. The District does have a DVD copy, but at this time it does not have a license for an online version of the documentary. Ms. DeVaughn mentioned that there are large clips of this documentary available online.

GENERAL COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

Ms. Aizstrauts is encouraged to hear about the good turnout for the review of the new middle school science materials.

Dr. Berman Williams brought up a conversation she had with a colleague who works in education at the university, and he mentioned that several years ago the district had a lot of policies and procedures in place for those that wanted to do educational research in the classroom. Her colleague stated these policies and procedures were complicated and took a long time to complete the process, leaving UAF researchers to feel like they cannot work with local school district students. Mrs. Daml informed the committee that the district has a webpage dedicated to those interested in conducting research (<https://www.k12northstar.org/domain/1125>), and there are two types of applications, internal and external. She also mention the District's Administrative Regulations lists several restrictions on research, such as the time of the year it can be conducted. Mr. Doran commented that the application process is not complicated, but there have been times when the district was inundated with requests and the process helps limit these. He also stated principals have the option to say no to a project (e.g. if a school already has several activities occurring during that time period, the principal might not approve of a research project). Mrs. Daml and Mr. Doran asked Dr. Berman Williams to encourage UAF researchers to visit the district's Research and Accountability webpage or contact Dr. Ellis Ott.

Mr. Peterson reintroduced the topic of the word "equity" in the fourth paragraph of the previously approved CAC recommendation memo to the School Board. He stated he does not think "equity" is the right word, and that curriculum is about opportunity and providing courses to allow students, through district programs, to advance themselves, obtain an education, and build career goals.

In regards to the last sentence of paragraph four of the CAC Recommendation Memo, Dr. Berman Williams proposed a friendly amendment to replace the word "equity" with "opportunity" so the sentence would read as follows: "the CAC supports the vision of providing opportunity and access for all students in CTE coursework and post-secondary career planning;" Ms. Aizstrauts seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. See the CAC Recommendation Letter section for additional information.

Mr. Doran would like to continue conversations about curriculum and how personalized learning fits in and impacts curriculum.

Dr. Willis mentioned a book, *iGen* by Jean Twenge, that she is currently reading and how it addresses the topic of soft skills that was discussed at a previous committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Daml moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Berman Williams seconded. Hearing no objections or further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.