

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

Minutes of March 5, 2020

Ms. Hadaway called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Administrative Center, Curriculum Library, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Members Present:

Maxine Dibert
Patrick Frymark
Sharon Hildebrand
Earnest Kincade
Allyson Nicholson

Earl Peterson
Deborah Rinio
Christina Sinclair
Graham Storey

Nonvoting Members:

Chrya Sanderson
Melanie Hadaway

Members Excused:

Aimee Hart
Sue Wilken

Members Absent:

Christian Bolton
Michael Campbell

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Sanderson moved to accept the March 5, 2020, agenda; Mr. Storey seconded. Hearing no objection or comment, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Storey moved to accept the January 9, 2020, minutes; Ms. Nicholson seconded. Members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Kincade and Mr. Peterson both pointed out they are listed as Ms. in the minutes. The minutes will be amended to correct this. Hearing no objection or comment, the minutes was approved as amended.

K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM REVISION

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that updated drafts of the curricula were posted on the website earlier that day, which included corrections to typos, punctuation, and grammatical errors. She also directed their attention to the following documents in their packet: lists of proposed changes to K-12 Social Studies and 7-8 English/Language Arts, graduate-level competencies for both curricula, high school graduation requirements for Social Studies, and draft recommendation letters.

K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES, DRAFT THREE

Ms. Hadaway briefly highlighted some of the proposed changes to the K-12 Social Studies curriculum. Titles for most elementary courses have changed, and some content was shifted from fifth to fourth grade. Middle school added a polar region section and changed some of the units within the curriculum.

Ms. Hadaway stated the significant change to high school curriculum is the shift from unit-based to competencies. She pointed out that Advanced Placement courses will follow the guidelines outlined in the curriculum from the College Board, and AP teachers must submit their syllabi to the College Board every school year for approval. The following new courses were added to the high school curriculum: *Global Diplomacy and Model United Nations* was added to World Studies, *U.S. Civil Rights Experience* is proposed for a second semester U.S. History credit, *Political Economics 1* and *2* were added to Government and Economic Studies respectively, and *AP Psychology* and *Media in History* were added as electives. Currently, financial literacy is not a part of the economics curriculum, but this was added to *Economics and Financial Literacy*. *Current Issues and Events* was aligned to competencies.

Mr. Frymark inquired about the letter sent to the writers from the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), and whether any of TCC's suggested changes were added to the curriculum. Ms. Hadaway confirmed that all feedback on draft two was reviewed, and most suggested changes were included in draft three, included those from TCC.

Ms. Hadaway directed the committee's attention to the graduate-level competencies, and members were given the opportunity to look these over. High school graduation requirements did not change, but students were given more choice in courses that will fulfill the requirements.

Ms. Hildebrand asked if the civic engagement course outline she provided was helpful. Ms. Hadaway confirmed the writers looked at it, and Ms. Morgan stated the writers found the material very helpful and used it to create content objectives for some courses.

Ms. Nicholson asked how the proposed curriculum aligns to online courses, and Ms. Hadaway confirmed it aligns closely with the online courses currently offered in the district.

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that in the summer there will be a credit course offered where teachers can look at the new curriculum, develop lesson plans, etc., and professional development opportunities will also be available next school year.

Ms. Rinio looked at the library standards and noted high school has few listed. Ms. Hadaway stated these can be added in the future. It is her hope that this curriculum becomes a meaningful document and teachers find it useful. Ms. Rinio inquired about the revision process and how these standards might be added. Ms. Hadaway briefly explained the process and how, during the measure-refine-revise stage, we can bring small changes to the committee and the Board, if needed.

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that the administration will send a letter to the Board recommending adoption of the K-12 Social Studies curriculum, unless serious concerns are raised during the meeting. Ms. Hadaway and Ms. Morgan also mentioned that draft three would be proofread and corrections to typos, punctuation, grammatical errors would be corrected, but nothing else in the document would be changed.

Ms. Hildebrand moved to recommend adoption of draft three of the K-12 Social Studies curriculum to the School Board; Ms. Sinclair seconded.

Mr. Graham inquired if the committee had seen community input on the curriculum drafts. Ms. Hadaway explained the committee saw a general overview of the input, but the writers reviewed every comment. Discussion ensued.

The committee voted, with all in favor of recommending the K-12 Social Studies curriculum to the School Board for adoption.

Recommendation Letter to the School Board

Ms. Hadaway directed the committee's attention to the draft recommendation letter, which was similar to other letters the committee had sent to the Board in the past. Members could choose to use the letter, make changes, or deciding not to send a letter. Members were given time to look it over.

Ms. Sanderson suggested adding a statement about the Board's strategic plan and personalized learning.

Ms. Rinio was concerned about the sentence on the second page stating the curriculum is aligned to standards. Ms. Hadaway stated the wording was considered, and it states the curriculum writers worked to identify where the curriculum is aligned to the standards listed. She explained that Ms. Rinio can make a friendly amendment to pause and add the standards to the curriculum before proceeding; Ms. Rinio stated she does not have a problem adding the library standards alignment in a year.

The recommendation letter will be amended to correct the typos and include a statement about the strategic plan. If approved, a final letter will be sent to the committee for review before it is sent to the Board.

The committee voted, with all in favor of sending the amended recommendation letter to the School Board.

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that a formal report on the proposed K-12 Social Studies curriculum will be presented to the School Board on March 17, and there will be opportunity for public comment if members would like to attend. The Board will then be asked to take action at the April 7 meeting.

7-8 ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM REVISION

Ms. Hadaway explained the curriculum writers added *Advanced English 7*, which was discussed and recommended at a previous committee meeting. *Middle School Literature* is a new course that combines *Literature 7* and *8* to provide schools with more flexibility. *Speech and Debate* was also added to support the schools that have lively debate clubs. *English Workshop* was removed from the curriculum, as writers agree the course is no longer needed and students can gain support in their regular classes. Ms. Hadaway also stated the ELL courses were revised. The committee then looked at the graduate-level competencies for ELA.

Mr. Frymark moved to recommend draft three of the 7-8 ELA curriculum to the School Board for adoption; Mr. Kincade seconded.

Mr. Storey asked if community concerns were addressed. Ms. Hadaway confirmed that all community input was reviewed and considered. The inclusion of honors courses was an issue that the curriculum writers spent a great deal of time discussing, and the topic was also brought to the committee for their input.

The committee voted, with all in favor of recommending the 7-8 English/Language Arts curriculum to the School Board for adoption.

Recommendation Letter to the School Board

Ms. Hadaway pointed out the draft recommendation letter for ELA is very similar to the one provided for Social Studies, and it would need the same amendments: correction of typos and added statement about the Board's strategic plan.

Ms. Nicholson moved to approve the recommendation letter as amended and to send it to the School Board; Mr. Kincade seconded.

The committee voted, with all in favor sending the amended recommendation letter to the School Board.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

9-12 English/Language Arts

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that the 9-12 English/Language Arts (ELA) curriculum is still being revised, and the plan is to put it out for public comment the following week. She stated there is a new course titled *Social Themes in Literature*. Books are still being identified and new books are vetted by three readers per book, working off a rubric. The third draft of the ELA curriculum will go out with updated book lists. Ms. Rinio inquired if there is flexibility to revise the list in the future. Ms. Hadaway explained the difference between the required reading lists included in the curriculum and the supplemental book lists.

Mr. Storey asked if his proposal about multiple strands within a single course was considered by the writers. Ms. Hadaway stated the *Social Themes in Literature* course is set up this way. However, teachers feel more professional development is needed, such on how to manage books thematically and how to manage more student choice, in order to teach multiple books at the same time.

CTE Information Technology

The Information Technology curriculum is continuing through the revision process. The writers are looking at possible certifications students can earn. Ms. Morgan informed the committee that UAF Community and Technical College is currently revising their IT curriculum, and the writers have paused to see what this revision looks like.

Curriculum Materials Process

Ms. Hadaway reminded the committee that Teaching and Learning recently held a public review for Social Studies and ELA sample textbooks and materials. Teachers and the community were invited to view the materials and provide input. Also, a survey was sent to teachers to see what is need. The goal is to have a list of recommended text at the next CAC meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

Ms. Hadaway asked the committee to move up the April meeting to March 26. The agenda will include discussion of approval of the 9-12 ELA curriculum and the recommended texts for Social Studies and ELA. Draft three of the 9-12 ELA curriculum will be posted the following week, and it will be available for public comment for two weeks. If feedback shows that a drastic change is needed, we will slow down the revision process and address this. Ms. Hadaway does not want anyone to think we are rushing through without giving attention to the comments that are received. However, if a final draft is ready to send to the Board, she would like to schedule a meeting for March 26. Ms. Morgan will send a notice to members reminding them of the change.

Ms. Hildebrand inquired about the April 16 meeting. Ms. Hadaway explained this is always scheduled as tentative in case an additional meeting is needed to finish things.

GENERAL COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

Ms. Hadaway informed the committee that the lottery and application process for North Star College is now closed. The agreement with UAF is to have forty high school seniors attend UAF, at no cost to the student. These students will be dually enrolled at both UAF and their high school. After the first year, it is her hope to expand this program to juniors and seniors. Over a hundred students started the application process, but she is not sure how many finished. Once the lottery runs, parents of chosen students will have the opportunity to decide if they want their child to participate. Then, students will sit down with a counselor to develop their course schedule. The School Board directed the development of this program several years ago, and the administration has been working on it since.

Ms. Sanderson recently saw a CTE presentation at the chamber and stated they did a fantastic job.

Mr. Kincade asked if students participating in North Star College can pick a degree plan, and Ms. Hadaway confirmed they can. Students will take two courses per semester as part of a cohort, and then can choose additional courses to meet their needs. The counselor will talk with the students about what they want to do.

Ms. Sinclair wanted to acknowledge everyone that worked on the curriculum. It is a big deal with a lot of people, ideas, and funneling of visions. She thinks it is wonderful.

Mr. Storey apologized for not being at the previous meeting. He thinks it is a great idea to have personal finance in the high school curriculum. He said they always have graduates come back and comment that the schools never taught them personal finance. He questioned whether it is possible to have a course high school success course during the second semester of middle school, or middle success course during the second semester of elementary, like the college success course students participating in North Star College will take. Ms. Hadaway stated she just had a conversation with someone about this.

Ms. Hildebrand is excited about seeing the final outcome. She recalls discussions the committee has had over the school year about polar regions, civic engagement, and personal finance, and seeing it all on paper now is good.

Mr. Peterson stated an academic literacy course has been proposed at the high school level, but not approved. This program exists at other places and it has been suggested that it be added here.

Mr. Frymark mentioned he frequently has discussions about students who get good grades but don't perform to those level of grades, the question becomes "are they good at Social Studies or are they just good at playing school?" How do we make it so being good at school is the same as being good at social studies? And the flip side is also true, with kids that can perform really well but have low grades. Is it that they are not doing well in social studies, or that they don't know how to "do school?" He is on board with that (a success course).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Storey moved to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection or further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.