

Eastford Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019
School Library

Call to order: 6:04 PM

Members in attendance: Gerald Marmat, Dr. Donna Leake, Carole McCombe, Megan Dill

1. Middle School Configuration
 - a. 5-8 “Middle School” – considering departmentalization for 2019 – 2020 academic year – ELA, Science, Math, Social Studies
 - b. Jerry – concerned about teacher interest and ensuring staff was satisfactory with decision – intrigued to see data, especially test scores, across the years
 - c. Concept was discussed with staff and staff believe improved student learning will result -student learning will be done by teacher certified in that content area – connection to looping at the lower grades-benefit is that teachers know students and what was taught the previous year
 - d. Not very different than what is already the practice in grade 5. Grade 6 is still mostly self-contained. Willing to try new approach to boost instructional practice and student outcomes.
 - e. Consider 90-minute blocks – 60-minute Tier 1 instruction with 30-minute intervention/enrichment block (potentially a M, W, F rotation and T, Th rotation) – multiage intervention approach – positive feedback from committee –Main goal is to find ways to differentiate and meet all students’ needs

2. Multiage Classroom
 - a. Original plan was a two-year plan to phase out multiage – looking at possibility of straight grades for 2019- 2020 academic year
 - b. Academic Data and maturity indicate some of the seven K students could move forward to grade 2 and some of the K students will stay in grade 1.
 - c. Grade 2 could have an average of 13 or 14 students next year.
 - d. First grade would have approximately 23 students. Additional adult support would be provided for ELA and Math.
 - e. A survey and meeting with all K/1 families will be used to gather feedback.

3. Curriculum Updates from March 8, 2019 Professional Development Day
 - a. Safety and social emotional training to entire staff and additional protocols are in development phase
 - b. Ethical conversations regarding Module 5 for Team Mentorship
 - c. Analyze and reflect on progress addressing weakness in student growth in ELA and Math
Assessment and instruction –
 - i. Adjusted schedule includes before and after student day

- ii. Communication with families regarding standards, grades
 - iii. Curriculum information night
 - iv. Better student awareness – charting goals and progress
 - v. Intervention push in K-2 with in class support, reading club, art enrichment / CT Invention Convention
 - vi. Resources and materials alignment with need – there is a need for vertical alignment
 - vii. Assessment schedule to ensure it informs instruction
4. Analysis of Accountability Report
- a. Staff challenged to examine how better results can be achieved
 - b. Examined instruction time and impacts
 - i. Bus – 8:35 arrival time has been proposed and will trial
 - ii. School readiness – SEL needs, attitudes toward work and homework
 - iii. Resources – not meeting all student needs – schoolwide expectations support our next levels of work
 - c. Declining scores in Eastford and across the state – need to focus on growth model
 - d. Analysis of Smaller Towns – Eastford weak in comparison – caution because many factors affect analysis
5. Will meet again in May

Adjourn: 6:53 PM

Minutes submitted by Megan Dill