

LNSU/LNEMUUSD CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017
JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board members present: Laura Miller, Andrew Beaupre, Lisa Barry, Bill Sander
Others: Jade Hazard

The meeting started at about 5:30.

A. Beaupre called for nominations for committee chair. L. Barry nominated A. Beaupre for chair. The committee voted unanimously to elect A. Beaupre as chair.

A. Beaupre called for nominations for secretary. L. Barry said she would not mind being secretary. L. Miller nominated L. Barry for secretary. The committee voted unanimously to elect L. Barry as secretary.

A. Beaupre said his idea about what this subcommittee should do is to address the board's goal to optimize student achievement through improved program offerings, aligned curriculum, and systems to monitor academic rigor in the classroom.

B. Sander said he feels the committee should review what is being offered at the high school. J. Hazard said she can bring in the student handbook.

A. Beaupre said the budget committee had discussed the idea of embracing attrition as student numbers change. We can consider whether we can make adjustments to scheduling and free up teacher time. L. Barry said we have to be careful about what our role is as a committee. L. Miller said we should know what class sizes and teacher scheduling look like. J. Hazard said the committee should work with the high school principal. W. Sander said he feels that some classes, like calculus, should be offered even if very few students take the class. L. Miller said if the number of students who want to take a course is low that means we don't need many different classes for that course.

L. Barry suggested that we gather information about enrollment numbers and opportunities available, such as courses that are offered online.

L. Miller said when she thinks of curriculum she thinks of making sure all elementary schools have the same curriculum so students have all learned the same things by the time they come to the middle school. J. Hazard said we are updating the document for teachers that covers what needs to be taught at each grade level. L. Miller said in the past we haven't had a document like that to ensure that all teachers were teaching the same thing. Common Core tells teachers what they need to address in math and language arts. Do we have something like that for social studies and science?

J. Hazard said there are curriculum documents that were created when Dave White first came on that cover literacy, math and science. All three need to be updated and that is in process. Work will be done on updating them this summer. B. Sander asked why they need to be updated. J.

Hazard said most were created prior to Common Core. They were based on the old Vermont GLE's that are no longer in use.

A. Beaupre asked if he is right in thinking that even though Common Core only applies to reading and math it's supposed to tie into social studies and science as well. J. Hazard said the AOE just adopted a new national social studies curriculum for Vermont.

L. Miller asked J. Hazard what she envisions this committee doing. J. Hazard said she was going to ask the committee the same thing. She is pretty clear on her work. Her focus is on updating curriculum documents, making sure we have embedded professional development and curriculum resources and assuring equity for students. She is not sure about the committee's work.

L. Miller said the board oversees all the pieces that make the system work. We aren't micromanaging. We should know what curriculum looks like but she doesn't think we would change curriculum. B. Sander said we might if we had a superintendent or principal who thought our kids just needed basic skills. The board has to be on top of those things, making sure it is all up to snuff. We have the final authority. L. Barry said it goes back to what kind of governance we are under. Under policy governance, the board would direct that to the superintendent. The board wouldn't just make that decision. The superintendent is the person who has the background and knowledge to facilitate that. B. Sander said if the high school wants to add a new course it comes before the board.

A. Beaupre said he would like to gather information on attrition rates between elementary and middle school and between middle school and high school, as they relate to curriculum. He is not thinking of students who drop out but of students who choose different schools and how those choices relate to curriculum. He is hearing from people in Hyde Park that they want more academic rigor at the high school level and that that is an issue at Lamoille Union.

J. Hazard said she can get data on attrition rates. Students go to other schools for reasons besides curriculum and instruction. She thinks it will be difficult to know the true reasons.

A. Beaupre said he had asked student reps on the board if they felt there were enough curriculum offerings and they said no.

J. Hazard said it would be interesting to look at schools with similar demographics to ours and see what they are offering.

A. Beaupre reviewed the information the committee wants. The committee wants to see the high school student handbook to see what is offered at the high school level. J. Hazard said she will bring copies for all committee members. The committee would like J. Hazard to present information about where we are on unifying elementary school curriculum. A. Beaupre said we would also like comparative information from other schools.

It was agreed to schedule committee meetings for the second meeting of each month. The next meeting will be January 22 at 5:00.

J. Hazard said she will bring copies of our handbook and if she can she will bring copies of Lake Region's handbook. A. Beaupre said the committee would like to know if there is anything in the handbook that is not being offered currently.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:53.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED