

LNSU/LNMUUSD CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
EDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Board members present: Laura Miller, Andrew Beaupre, Bill Sander

Others: Jade Hazard

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A. Beaupre called the meeting to order at 5:35. The agenda was approved by consent.

2. Discuss LUHS Course Descriptions

A. Beaupre said one question he has is what procedure we need to go through now for a proposed new course to be approved. B. Sander said in the past an instructor with an idea for a course would go through the ranks at the school and then the idea would come to the curriculum committee for approval. Then it would go to the whole board, which would act on the recommendation from the curriculum committee. A. Beaupre asked if we have to approve a new LNMUUSD policy to do that. J. Hazard said she thinks we should look at what current LNMUUSD policy states. A. Beaupre said Brian Schaffer has a new class he really wants to get on the books.

L. Miller asked, what if there isn't enough interest in a course? B. Sander said usually there is a minimum number of students needed to offer it, unless it is something like trigonometry that should be offered even if only a few students are interested.

L. Miller said she wonders whether courses that can't be offered at LUHS can be made available through computer technology. A. Beaupre said he thinks we need to pose that question to B. Schaffer. The budget committee had questions about availability of dual enrollment and early enrollment to our students.

L. Miller said there are many long distance learning opportunities. How can we approve that for students if something they are interested in is not available at LUHS? J. Hazard said that relates to flexible pathways and proficiency based learning. We can ask B. Schaffer how courses are approved.

A. Beaupre asked if proficiencies will be listed in the next version of the course handbook. J. Hazard said they should be. A. Beaupre asked where we are with them. J. Hazard said she knows they are all in PowerSchool. A. Beaupre asked, the board hasn't voted on a set of proficiencies? J. Hazard said they have voted on proficiency-based graduation requirements which were adopted from the state. She doesn't think the new board has had a chance to look at current proficiencies and performance indicators.

A. Beaupre asked if it would be easier if questions were submitted in writing. J. Hazard said she thinks so.

A. Beaupre said he has questions related to foreign language. We only offer 3 levels of Latin. There is an Advanced option after Latin II. The course description book doesn't

say whether you can take the same class twice for credit. And if a college has a requirement of 4 years of Latin, how do we show a student has that level of proficiency?

J. Hazard said that is a question for B. Schaffer. If we only offer up to Latin III and we have a student interested in studying languages at college, that is where flexible pathways comes in. Are there online classes in Latin IV or other opportunities students can have outside what we offer so they can have proficiency in Latin IV for college?

A. Beaupre asked how we pay for that. There is no Latin at CCV or Johnson State.

L. Miller asked, what if someone wants to learn Chinese? A. Beaupre said we could send them to Stowe. Do we pay for that?

J. Hazard said these are good questions. We can have B. Schaffer come and answer them next time.

A. Beaupre said there is a Spanish V Advanced class but the course description says, "The course will only overlap with AP material at times and will not be instructed to the AP exam. Therefore, those students who desire to take the AP exam will need to purchase the AP workbooks and spend time preparing for the exam outside of class." He didn't know we would put that onto students. We have an AP option for French. Why not for Spanish?

A. Beaupre said there is no Algebra I in the book. Is that expected to be completed at the middle school level? J. Hazard said yes.

L. Miller said the prerequisite for geometry is successful completion of 8th grade or summer school Algebra I. What if someone doesn't go to our middle school and starts 9th grade without having had algebra? Jade said that is a good question. She knows other schools have Algebra I at the high school level.

L. Miller asked if we should also be looking at middle school courses.

A. Beaupre asked if the tracking goes away with proficiency based learning. J. Hazard said she was not aware students were tracked. In theory a proficiency based system should not have tracking. Each student should have a personalized learning plan.

A. Beaupre said students will have to calculate which classes will provide them with the necessary proficiencies and fit them all in. L. Miller asked, who does that – the guidance counselor? J. Hazard said yes.

L. Miller said she recently had professional development where they learned about robotics. A lot had to do with coding. If there was a student who was interested in that, where would their path be? J. Hazard said that is a good question. We do offer STEM classes at the elementary and middle school levels. There has been talk of offering STEM classes at the high school. L. Miller asked if there is any path for computer programming at the

high school now. J. Hazard said not that she knows of but they are looking into offering a STEM course. They are also looking at working with the tech center. The tech center does truly proficiency based learning. In HVAC, for instance, they are incorporating math and literature into their course work.

A. Beaupre asked, if we each can get a list of questions to J. Hazard to pass on to B. Schaffer by the end of next week, could answers be ready for the next curriculum committee meeting? J. Hazard said yes, and we can have B. Schaffer join us.

A. Beaupre said we can also start to think about the timeline of a policy so we can have the new course proposal presented to us.

J. Hazard said about 2-3 weeks ago there was a survey sent out by guidance counselors to students and teachers about their interests. She and B. Schaffer can share that information with the curriculum committee. There needs to be certain amount of student interest in a course, like at least 10 students. And we also have to think about budget.

J. Hazard said one of the biggest questions she heard here was: What do we do about classes students are interested in that aren't offered at LUHS? How can they access them and how will we pay for them?

L. Miller said if we can't offer a new course if less than 10 students are interested then existing courses with less than 10 students should be looked at.

A. Beaupre said committee members will try to get questions to J. Hazard by the end of the week

3. ***Adjourn***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths