

**STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Lisa Papke, Tony Edwards, Pierre Habel, Keith Beams, Linda Choun, Priscilla Flanders, Mark Flora, and Leonard Dinegar.

**Absent:** None.

**Observers:** Sonya Sotolongo and Kevin Davis.

**Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Agenda:** Agenda was approved.

**Public Commentary:** None.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with a minor change (attachment #1\*).

**English 9:** Jennifer Tompkins discussed the proposal for incorporation of standard/honors courses.

- She stated that no changes will be made as the standard English classes are already rich and rigorous and at the appropriate level. The English department is currently looking at an option to add an additional novel to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Motivating students to do the summer reading was also discussed. Currently, students are given a list of questions to guide their summer reading and teachers administer a common assessment in the first weeks back to school in the fall. Per Jennifer, many students do not read the assigned literature. S/C briefly discussed how to educate our community on the importance of reading the assigned material as well as how to motivate/incent students. Ideas included:
  - Requiring students to write a paper on summer reading
  - Implementing book groups/tutorials over the summer
  - Write a *Jaguar Tracks* article on the importance of summer reading, and talk about it at new student welcome night (February 18<sup>th</sup>), parent boot camp, back to school nights.
- Jennifer also briefly discussed some thoughts about 10<sup>th</sup> grade English. The English department has not finalized any decisions for integrating the 10<sup>th</sup> grade English standard/honors courses.
- Providing students additional rigor in the standard course setting was also discussed; Jennifer stated that currently, opportunities for extra credit are given to students who want to go above and beyond course requirements.
  - Extra credit might be an option for students seeking additional rigor, but more discussion is needed on how it would be implemented.
  - Jennifer discussed the option of adding challenging essay prompts that would engage students seeking additional rigor, but counseled she will wait to see how the integration of standard and honors courses goes before considering this option.

- In the spring of 2015, S/C and the English department will review the integration of standard and honors courses. **ACTION: S/C**

**Social Studies 9:** Micah Porter discussed the proposal for incorporation of standard/honors courses.

- It was decided amongst 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers not to integrate any 9<sup>th</sup> grade honors material, as the regular course is a “VERY good class and to tinker with it would be foolhardy”. The standard class is challenging on its own, the honors material was above grade level and the honors students frequently struggled with it, so to introduce it across the board would be too challenging for many students.
- Micah stated that as a result of the SS curricular review, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade course has undergone two unit changes and there is no room to add any additional assignments to the standard course.
- Micah stated that rigor and the level of discussion in the standard classroom will naturally become elevated as a result of integrating standard/honors course students.
- This year the students are writing more than in past years as a result of teachers conducting more evaluative measures in the classroom via the administrations’ encouragement.
- Improvements will be made in the term paper process 9-12<sup>th</sup>. The SS department is also discussing the implementation of “preparatory scaffolding” to be introduced in junior high (see below).
- In the spring of 2015, S/C and the Social Studies department will review the integration of standard and honors courses. **ACTION: S/C**
- A full curricular review will take place in 2016. **ACTION: S/C**

### **Social Studies Term Papers:**

- Keith reported that the committee will be meeting soon to finalize discussions about term paper process modifications. Items under consideration are:
  - Fall semester will focus on enhancing the research process and adding book review components. By the end of the fall semester students will produce a working thesis and outline.
  - Spring semester will focus on writing a rough draft. After receiving in-depth feedback from teachers, students will produce a final draft.
  - Goal is to have students produce one in-depth paper and to improve the quality of research and writing.
  - Students will also be given more support, starting at the junior high level.

### **Principal’s Report:**

- **Security:** Tony is actively pursuing the installation of a security system this school year. District IT will conduct a walkthrough on Wednesday and provide a cost estimate. Tony will be working on a proposal to determine if the district will fund half the cost.
- **Lottery**– The lottery will be run on Friday, and families will be called starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tony reported that there are ~100 students coming from Dennison and

60 siblings coming into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. With 500 applications, that leaves about 40 spots available through the lottery.

- **Upcoming Events:** Spirit Week is next week, along with the Junior High Social and the Sadie Hawkins Dance.
- **Band:** D'Evelyn's symphonic band performed in Colorado Springs at the 2014 CMEA Clinic/Conference. This selection was based on anonymous auditions, and D'Evelyn was one of four high school bands selected which represents a significant honor. The performance was outstanding. Tony introduced the band and Mr. Martin, linking work ethic and the role of the arts in a strong Liberal Arts program.
- **New Student Welcome Night:** This will take place on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Booths for clubs and activities will be spread throughout the school, with a presentation at 7:00 p.m.

### **Discussion of District Policy and Procedures for**

**Accommodations/Modifications:** Dan Cohan, Executive Director of School Effectiveness, joined the discussion of District Policy/D'Evelyn Philosophy regarding Accommodations /Modifications.

- Dan stated that in light of new concussion protocols and specific situations that have arisen, S/C needs to discuss the process of developing a policy on providing accommodations for students at D'Evelyn. Most neighborhood schools already have developed policies and processes on how to accommodate students.
- In the past, D'Evelyn has provided some accommodations without modifying curriculum. The difference between accommodations and modifications must be understood and clearly defined.
- Per district policy, neighborhood schools must provide accommodations for students in need.
- Dan cited IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act); 504 plans come from that legislation. The legislation requires students be provided the opportunity to the curriculum.
- There are different avenues to accommodate student's medical/learning needs (e.g. RtI - Response to Intervention, 504 plans and IEP-Individualized Education Plans) each of which have different legal criteria.
- S/C briefly discussed possible ways students could be provided access to the curriculum as required under federal legislation. D'Evelyn needs to establish a policy that ensures consistency among teachers, to avoid confusion, provide direction, assure fairness and guard against legal issues.
- Dan will research other schools' policy templates and email to Tony who will pass on to the Policy Committee Chair. **ACTION: TONY**
- The policy committee will meet to draft a policy within the next two weeks on accommodating students with medical needs. **ACTION: PIERRE**

**Minutes entered into record for Communications Committee** (attachment #2 and #3\*)

Final

**Continuity Log Review** (attachment #4\*): S/C reviewed and updated. **ACTION:**  
**LEONARD**

**Principal Hiring Committee** (Tony excused): Interviews will be conducted on Friday, with second round interviews taking place next Monday.

\*Hard copies of **attachments** are available in the library.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted: Aimee Pless, Note Taker and Priscilla Flanders, Secretary