

**STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**February 24<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:** None.

**Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:28 p.m.

**Agenda:** Agenda was approved.

**Public Commentary:** None.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved (attachment #1\*).

**Consent Agenda:** The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology textbook was approved.

**Social Studies 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook:**

- Keith provided an update on questions S/C had for the department concerning their textbook proposal from our prior meeting. Committee Chair followed up with publisher and found out additional information.
  - Publisher McKay offers free online resources that don't expire, as well as extensive teacher resources.
  - The McKay text costs \$135, with the option to purchase a primary source booklet for students for \$8/year. In comparison, the Spielvogel textbook costs \$110.
  - Student feedback is pending
  - The subcommittee concluded that the McKay text aligns better with the curriculum,
- Next steps: Tony to advise S/C when the full text is available for their review. He will have both the proposed McKay book and the current text available for the review process. **ACTION: S/C**
- Discussion will resume post S/C review.

**English Department Curricular Review Report (attachments #2, 3, 4\*):**

- The curricular review subcommittee proposes the following for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades:
  - Move *The Good Earth* from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, and move *The Yearling* from 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.
  - Add *Lord of the Flies* to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading curriculum.
  - Re-examine the function of *A Christmas Carol*.
  - Temporarily move *The Pearl* from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade for 2 years as curricular changes are implemented.
- The curricular review subcommittee proposes the following for 9<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Retain *O Pioneers!* and move it and Siddharth from summer reading to the school year curriculum. The *Good Earth* will also be part of the school year curriculum.
- Move *Old Man and the Sea* and *A Separate Peace* to the summer reading curriculum.
- Subcommittee representatives shared rationale for these proposed changes designed to support students and improve instruction (see attachments), including maturity level, accessibility, classroom support, connections to other works, and horizontal alignment with Social Studies.
- S/C requested that the subcommittee report include justification for the decision to retain *O Pioneers!* and not replace it with *My Antonia* since the committee was originally requesting *My Antonia* as a replacement book for *O' Pioneers!*.
- S/C requested clarification on why *A Christmas Carol* is not currently taught as part of the curriculum and future discussion about if it should be.
- S/C briefly discussed the pros and cons of adding *Lord of the Flies* to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading curriculum. This proposal will be sent back to subcommittee for discussion.
- S/C briefly discussed the curricular review process and the needs and benefits of having faculty members in attendance at S/C meeting when S/C is considering curricular changes.

#### **Review S/C Candidate Application:**

- S/C will review Keith's application. **ACTION: S/C**
- S/C discussed how to more successfully cultivate a list of candidates; there are no parent candidates running in the election to fill an upcoming vacancy.

#### **Principal's Report:**

- The Brain Bowl team run by Cyndi Fisher won state championship (Wyoming and Colorado).
- The basketball teams are hosting playoffs Friday and Saturday.
- New Student Welcome Night: Tony reported good feedback on both format and presentations.
- The musical finished with large community support.

#### **Principal Survey Committee:**

- S/C voted to consent the linkage policy LP-04- updates to the principal staff/parent surveys.
- The principal staff/parent survey goes live on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will close on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The community will be notified by School Messenger.
- Minor changes were made to the linkage policy and the updated version will be added to the web. Linda and Priscilla will send to Lisa Porter; S/C members will update their notebooks. **ACTION: S/C**

#### **Policy on Accommodations/Modifications (attachment #5):**

- Pierre compiled resources on current district protocols; Linda researched additional resources, developed and distributed a draft policy: "Returning to Learn after a Concussion and Concussion Management." This draft was developed to start the

conversation on what area S/C needs to look at during the policy development on this issue.

- Concussions need to be treated differently than other illnesses since students have cognitive issues that are worsened or prolonged by returning to school too soon.
- Many states have passed legislation regarding concussions, in light of new medical research from 2009-2011.
- Historically, D'Evelyn staff and Steering Committee have allowed for accommodations but not modifications; this needs to be better defined through policy, perhaps with using the term "adjustments."
- In district protocols, there is no universal standard for helping students return from a concussion, as severity and recovery time vary.
- S/C discussed potential policy considerations including:
  - What circumstances would trigger a meeting between staff/parents/students/other support personnel to develop appropriate arrangements.
  - Possible considerations such as work reduction, credit recovery, and alternative programs for students to keep up with school work and what is appropriate for our students and D'Evelyn given the rigor of our program.
  - The goal to develop consistency among teachers for providing any adjustments to student workload, and the importance of defining a process for handling concussion victims.
  - Linda will send members electronic versions of attachment #5; S/C will review and provide Linda feedback on her draft policy.
  - A faculty committee will need to be established to discuss specific procedures.
  - **ACTION: S/C/faculty committee**

**Curricular Review Process:** This discussion will be postponed

**Continuity Log Review (attachment #6\*):** S/C will send any additions/completions to Leonard. **ACTION: S/C**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** March 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