



Academic Committee

11:00

May 10, 2022

Director of Communication Office

Participants:

Joan Stidham, Director of Teaching & Learning

Megan Rivet, Director of Student Services

Adam Biedenbach, Principal Three Rivers Elementary

Lisa Whiteley, Director of Communications

Ryan McDonald, Board of Education

Michelle Richards, Community Member/Parent

*Please know that no decisions were made during this meeting. The purpose of this committee is to discuss the academics of the Three Rivers Local School District. Any District decisions are made during Board of Education meetings. These meeting dates can be found on the Three Rivers Local School District website.

1) Welcome and Agenda Review

2) ELA Adoption Update

a) Review of presentation (presentation is [attached HERE](#))

-Joan provided an overview of the attached presentation.

-Mrs. Richards asked about Amazon reading in class. There are some books that read from Amazon. Joan explained that round robin reading is discouraged.

-The District purchases the books for students

-Mr. McDonald asked about "adapted" - Mrs. Rivet explained that those books are used for resource rooms.

-Mr. McDonald asked about Hillbilly Elegy - author is running for office. Just mentioned to keep it on our radar.

-Books on the list that have not been taught are denoted with an asterisk.

-Middle School started their pilot later. The training was not available with what they wanted to pilot. TMS will pilot it again next year before adopting. Amplify Reading is what they (grades 6-8) will pilot for the first semester of the 2022-23 school year. 5th grade has been using a separate program.

-K-4 has dedicated a lot of time working through the pilot process and a recommendation to the board for ELA adoption. McGraw-Hill Wonders and Amplify CKLA were the two considered.

-Principal Biedenbach has done a lot of work studying both TRES curriculum adoption.

- Mr. McDonald and Mr. Biedenbach explained the importance of reading The Knowledge Gap to better understand student learning.
- Mr. Biedenbach had a Zoom meeting with a principal who piloted CKLA two years ago, adopted it, and used it this entire school year.
- Mr. McDonald explained the board's concern with older grades not having the background of the curriculum.
- Mr. Biedenbach said the committee felt like CKLA follows the science of reading.
- Mrs. Rivet explained that the background knowledge blends well with content area of middle school and high school curriculum.
- Committee's concerns were around some of the content (world religion)
- Mr. McDonald asked if the teachers concerned with content were mainly teachers who piloted the program or not. Mr. Biedenbach said most of the concerns come from younger grades. CKLA has pre-made parent letters to explain the content ahead of time so that parents can understand what their child is going to be taught. Most seems to stem from "fear of the unknown."
- Mr. McDonald mentioned how CKLA makes connections from year-to-year.
- CKLA is stronger in phonics
- The committee agreed that Wonders and CKLA are both good programs.

b) Plan for Public Review

- Ensure the content is easily accessible to all stakeholders. Communication will be easily accessible on the website in coming days.

c) Communication of Plan

- Curriculum parent portals was discussed to ensure parents have open and easy access to curriculum content. Use preexisting parent portal on website but have an additional tab to redirect them to the parent portal page. Mr. McDonald asked that we put out as much as possible for families to be able to review content and understand the curriculum.
- Communication will go out this week and be accessible so that they have time to review the content prior to board approval on May 24th.
- 21 staff members going to a reading conference this summer
- Include in the communication what resources/training have been provided to staff in preparation for new content.

3) Summer Activities

a) Retreat

- This is the last academic committee meeting before the summer retreat.

b) Summer School

- Full for all three weeks
- Great response from staff
- Student workers are approved
- Getting ready to get purchase orders in place

c) Back to School Fest

- August 11th event
- (link flier here)

d) Beginning of the Year

- August 15th is staff first day back
- August 16th is staff professional development
- August 17th is students' first day of school

4) Other

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5) Set Next Meeting date

-September 13th at 11:00 am - 401 North Miami Ave. Cleves, OH 45002