

**South Middleton School District
Curriculum Committee Meeting (Virtual)
Monday, March 29, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance:

Panelists:

Mel Shaver-Durham, Director of Curr.
Stacey Knavel, Board Member
Elizabeth Meikrantz, Board Member
Bethanne Sellers, Board Member, Chair
Mr. Joel Hain, BSHS Principal
Tracy Mersch
Brittany Staab

Other Attendees:

Alex Smith, Director of Student Services Board members: Edyie Rob, Liz Knouse, Denise MacIvor
Jen Chamberlin
Ally Chiavacci
Aron Christopher
Mary Cornman
Chris Storrick

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. General Announcements

Webinar Format – newly instituted by IT department for improved safety and security with virtual meeting formats

Update to Board Policies – newly adopted Board policies in the 00 series bring a few changes to managerial functions of the meeting; Citizen’s Participation should be no longer than 3 minutes in length, any questions or comments from attending Board members not on committee will be shared prior to Citizen’s Participation portion.

Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – due to increased interest, an update went out district-wide on Friday, March 26, 2021 so it will not be directly addressed during the meeting as an agenda item this evening

III. Curriculum Initiative

ELA Task Force Updates

Brittany Staab and Tracy Mersch shared current status in elementary and HS progress and standards;

ELA curriculum will be approved in the same manner as the math curriculum, following the same format as the previous adoption protocols

First it will come to the Curriculum Committee for review and questions, then it will move to the full Board for adoption, after discussion

K-8 Math Textbook Recommendations Update

Grades 6-8 Math – 2 pilots, Envision and Into Math Ed Gems with some consideration the middle school materials continue from the 3-5 math programming available
Algebra – 2 pilots by two teachers at MS (Coulter) and HS (Karloski) - 1 unit each
Recommendation will be brought forward to June 1 for committee vote

IV. K-5 Virtual Academy Proposal

Ms. Shaver-Durham presented a K-5 virtual academy using existing teaching staff, incorporating specials and opportunities for student-school interaction, and adding only 1 new position: Virtual and Assistant Elementary Principal.

School Counseling would be provided by newly created Social Worker positions.

Committee members questioned the need for this, surveys, or numbers of interested families as a known factor. In some cases, more information and numbers are needed in order to pursue and plan for this endeavor.

Curriculum committee did not vote to bring this proposal forward, instead asked for the proposal slides to be forwarded to the entire board for review.

Rationale: A K-5 virtual academy has implications in every facet, for every committee, not just Curriculum & Instruction. Ms. Shaver-Durham will send the slides to the entire board for viewing prior to board meeting.

V. Board Participation:

Denise MacIvor

Administrative Participation:

Alex Smith, Director of Student Services

Citizen's Participation

9 SMSD residents commented

Next meeting, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.