

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2022

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: LFHS West Campus Seminar B
Committee Members Present: Amber Birch Trujillo, Julie Eglite, Carl Kirar, Umang Singh, Suzanne Sands
Administration Present: Jeff McHugh, Matt Montgomery
Additional Staff Present: Denise Galatsianos, Becky Saxena
Approval of Minutes: Motion by Julie Eglite, Seconded by Amber Birch Trujillo
Public Comment: There were no public comments.

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Logistics

The meeting opened with a brief discussion about moving the next meeting from May 5 to May 12. The move was agreed to by the group. Suzanne mentioned that all members would be given an opportunity to provide input around availability as next year's calendar is put together.

World Language: Latin – Jeff McHugh

Dr. Jeff McHugh, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared an update with the committee regarding plans to adopt a new resource to support Latin instruction at DPM. Dr. McHugh collaborated with the LFHS and DPM Latin teams and Dr. Rachel Abel, Instructional Director for World Language at LFHS, finding that there are basically two well-respected resources available to support Latin instruction, Subarani and Ecce Romani. DPM currently uses Ecce Romani. LFHS had expressed an interest in moving to Subarani and the DPM team was open to the possibility. Dr. McHugh gathered input and insights from the DPM teachers, the LFHS teachers, and teachers in other local districts using these resources. After deliberation, discussion, and further exploration the DPM team is on board and excited about shifting to Subarani, as their new resource for grade 6-8. 5th grade will continue to use current resources. They will essentially cover Latin 1 during those three years of instruction and will enter LFHS in Latin 2, as they are doing using the current resource. The decision was made collaboratively with the staff DPM and LFHS staffs. This will be brought to the Board for approval at the April meeting.

6-8 Math Review Update – Jeff McHugh and Rebecca Saxena

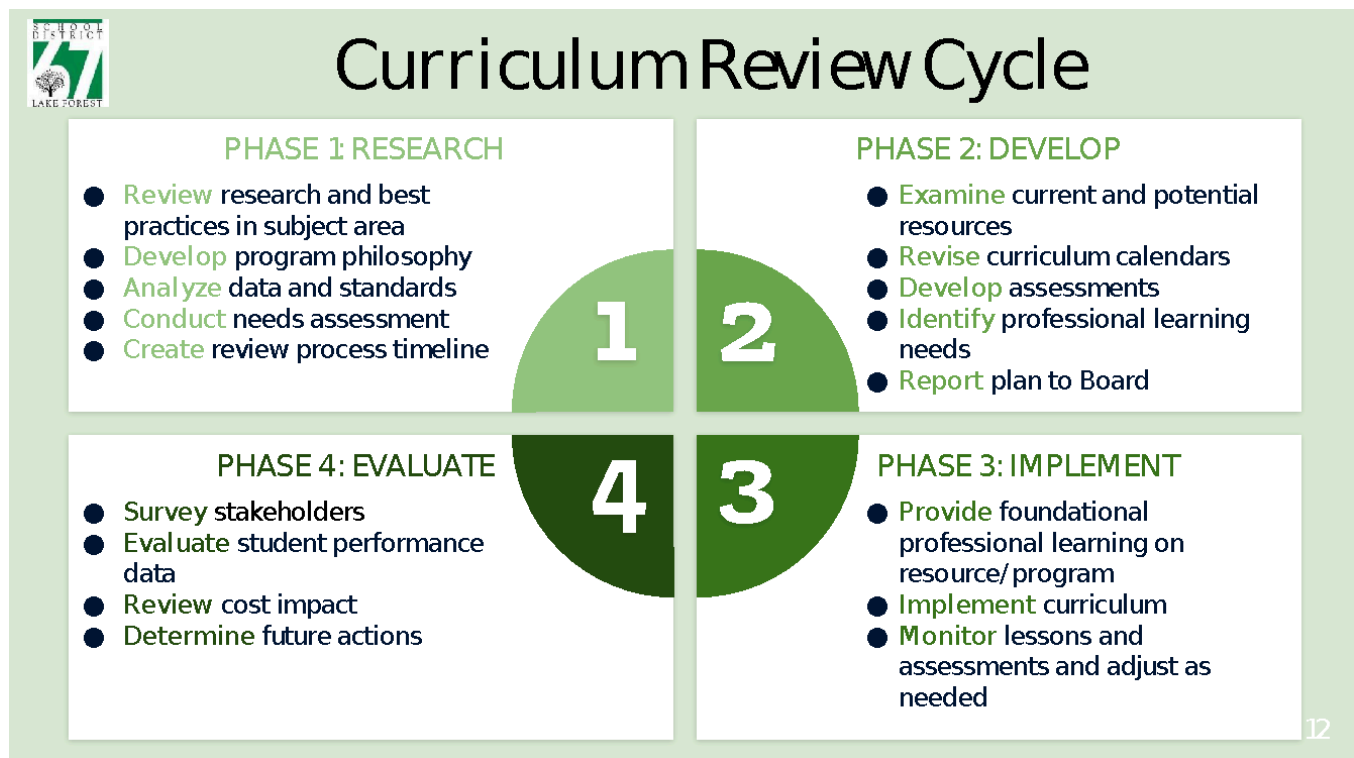
Dr. McHugh was joined by Becky Saxena, District Math Coach, to provide the committee with an update on the status of the 6-8 Math review. This review is in Phase 2 (see figure below). During Phase 1 the data reviewed showed that our students are not experiencing the outcomes in math that we expect and want. Upon doing a deeper review of the current resource, [Connected Math Project \(CMP\)](#) and other newer available resources it emerged that our current resource is lacking in teacher support, the availability of digital resources, and is not well-rated (it was new when it was originally adopted). There are numerous resources on the market with significantly higher ratings, that also provide extensive teacher support and digital resources. As a result, the team is in the process of determining which math resource to adopt for implementation starting next year. [CPM](#) and [Illustrative Math](#) are currently under consideration and being trialed by teachers and administrators. The team has been in contact with other districts using these resources. They are working to figure out which resource is going to be the best fit for our teachers and students with the intent to improve student outcomes in math. A recommendation for adoption will be brought to the Board in May, to give the staff enough time to work with the resources in advance of finalizing a decision.

K-8 Reading Review Update – Jeff McHugh and Denise Galatsianos

Dr. McHugh was joined by Denise Galatsianos, District Literacy Coach, to provide the committee with an update on the status of the



K-8 Reading review. This review is in Phase 1 (see figure below). The team has reviewed student data and determined that the outcomes are not where they should be. Dr. Montgomery had encouraged the team, upon his review of the data, to ground themselves in new research and best practices related to the science of reading. This research led to a recommendation that the District take some time to engage in significant professional learning in this area across staff and administrators prior to beginning the process of exploring resources that may be needed. Building an understanding of current thinking in instruction based on more recent research is the current focus of this review. Many staff members have volunteered to participate in Reading Review Learning Academies; while others have chosen to access the reading materials for independent study. There are teachers engaged in this work across all four buildings, including special education staff, speech pathologists, psychologists, and administrators. Learning Academy participants will be expected to share their learning with other staff this spring. There will be summer learning opportunities offered as well. This work is generating a lot of positive buzz and excitement across the District. Eventually, content teachers at DPM will be engaged in this professional learning in addition to the ELA staff. The timeline for the work ahead was shared and it was noted that Word Study work has continued at DPM and is driving improvements related to writing and literacy as well. It was also noted in the context of the discussion that while no system-wide changes to resources will be implemented next year, it is highly likely that this professional learning will begin to impact instruction in classrooms using current resources.



Committee Member Input

At each of our meetings we allow time for committee members to share ideas about possible future topics for the group to explore. At this meeting one committee member expressed an interest in World Language instruction at DPM, specifically when would it be up for a curricular review and could there be more flexibility around language selection after 5th grade.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 12, 2022 at 12 PM.