

Draft
Curriculum and Instruction
Committee Notes

Committee Members: Chair, Phyllis Pascucci, Robin Wetmore, Ana Vander Woude, Chiung-Yin Cheng Liu

Administrators: Barbra Duncan, Mary Beth Currie

Meeting Date: Thursday July 22

World Language: Elementary-A review of the world language program for elementary grades first thru sixth was undertaken by the district. This consisted of an administrative review of the program in terms of curriculum, frequency of instruction and instructional strategies. In addition, a parent survey was conducted utilizing the computer software “Survey Monkey.” This survey revealed the majority of parents responding to the survey would like the frequency of instruction increased. Additionally the parents preferred that the students be instructed in one language from first thru sixth grade in order to allow for consistency. The survey results indicated that parents would like to Spanish to be taught from grades first thru sixth. The recommendation from the administration and the members of this committee is to modify the world language program at Indian Hill to offer only Spanish. The committee also recommends that work on the sixth grade Spanish curriculum be approved for August.

Currently instruction in world language is provided once a week at Village School and three times per month at Indian Hill. The administration and members of this committee are in agreement that an increase in language instruction time is needed. There was discussion on different strategies to infuse world language into the classrooms. One strategy was to incorporate “Power Speak” a type of Rosetta Stones for children into the classrooms further discussion took place on how to pilot Power Speak. No decision was made and further discussion will take place at the August meeting. This committee realizes the need to evaluate and assess the districts world language program grades kindergarten thru sixth. For this reason the committee has made the language program one of the priorities for the 2010-2011 school year.

Music-High School-This school year to meet the expressed need for Honors credit in music the district expanded the curriculum in Chorus, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band. To achieve Honors credit, students were required to meet additional requirements that demonstrated a greater depth and mastery of the specific subject areas. Feedback from the teachers and students was positive. Discussion took place with respect to the recommendation from administration to improve the program by adding an additional performance requirement. The members of this committee recommend the expansion of requirements.

Additionally the district does not have a staff member who has applied to lead the Elite Orchestra in 2010. -2011. The Elite Orchestra enrollment over the past two years has been between 9-12 students. The district has a high request for Bells, approximately 40 students auditioned. Therefore the recommendation is to use the Elite Orchestra stipend for another section of Bells for 2010-2010.

Donations: This committee recommends approval of donations from the HCAA, the PTSO, and the Music Support Group.