Meeting Minutes

Board Present: Jennifer Peltz, Marilyn Franklin

Staff Present: Joyce Davis, Jeff Dellutri, Greg DePue, Rick Monroe, John Reiels, Kelly Saunders

Others Present: Cindy Rasansky

I. Call the Meeting to Order
Chair Jennifer Peltz called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

II. School Board Member Roll Call
Recording Secretary Ferne Hecker called the School Board member attendance roll call, with chair
Mrs. Jennifer Peltz and Mrs. Marilyn Franklin, member being present.

III. Recommend Approval of Agenda
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz, to approve the agenda as written. Franklin, Peltz “Aye.” “No” none. Motion passed 2-0.

IV. Recommend approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting as written. Motion passed 2-0.

V. Discussion Regarding the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Fellowship
Ms. Kelly Saunders was present at the Curriculum Committee meeting to report on her selection by the United States Department of State, to participate in the Teaching Excellence and Achievement program. She is one of 40 teachers selected from around the country to participate in this professional development opportunity and travel grant that will promote mutual understanding between U.S. and international teachers, students, and schools. Ms. Saunders will participate in a reciprocal exchange in Bangladesh. Ms. Saunders has deferred the exchange until 2011, but she is already communicating with her exchange teacher. Being selected for this program is a great honor and academic achievement.

VI. Discussion Regarding Attendance Procedures
Principal Greg DePue distributed information regarding the old Nicolet attendance procedure, district policy, the law and the new attendance procedure (see attached). He reviewed the data relative to student absences and frequently asked questions regarding the policy and procedures.
Nicolet parent, Cindy Rasansky, feels that the information looks good on paper, but that the policy indirectly asks parents to lie about their child’s absence. Mrs. Peltz stated that she checked other schools regarding their attendance policy and Nicolet is the only one that doesn’t include car trouble or oversleeping as an excused absence. There was also concern that to be excused, an absence must be called in within two days. It was felt that 48 hours was not enough time. The question was asked, “if I approve of my child’s absence, why should the school question it?”

Questions arose regarding tardiness. Mr. DePue explained that the policy has changed somewhat. Originally tardy students were not allowed to go to class; now they may go to class unless they are tardy for 1st hour. Mr. DePue discussed this issue with teachers and it was felt that after 10 minutes, first hours student should not be allowed to enter class. It is felt that students have to learn life skills and responsibility and not be tardy to school everyday. Mr. DePue has been working with Quarles and Brady on these policies, but the School Board can make provisions if they choose to do so. The policies will be discussed with the Policy Committee.

VII. Discussion Regarding Changes in the Learning Support Program
As part of this summer’s planned remodeling of the library facilities, there has been discussion of moving learning support programs to what is currently the ITC and Testing Center. Mr. Reiels and Mr. DePue discussed the changes with the committee. At present learning support is disjointed and located in several areas. It is felt that the best delivery of services is to put these services in one area. Students need to be served in a more flexible manner.

VIII. Public Comment
None

IX. Committee Comments
Mrs. Peltz stated that at the December meeting there was a little discussion regarding academic levels. She would like further discussion placed on the February Curriculum Committee agenda. Mrs. Franklin stated that she has attended the first Class Rank Committee meeting where levels are also being discussed. She reported that there is not agreement amongst the committee members. The various areas of concern among the Curriculum Committee is class rank, leveling, and a common grading system. Mr. Reiels explained that some of these issues will be addressed through Understanding by Design which will take several years to be fully implemented. He explained to the Curriculum Committee that levels cannot be discussed with the committee for the next two months because of other pressing issues which need to be presented.

X. Upcoming meeting date
The February Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 4:00 pm in F124.

XI. Adjournment
Motion by Mrs. Franklin, seconded by Mrs. Peltz to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 2-0.

Mrs. Peltz adjourned the January 13, 2010 Curriculum Committee meeting at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ferne Hecker
Recording Secretary