

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

Committee members present: P. Ingvoldstad, D. Osborn, K. Roberts, D. Baker, S. Reber. Others: C. Hindes, B. Schaffer, D. Taylor, D. White, Sally Hendon, Krista Huling, Peter Lavigne, Bill Haines.

The meeting started at 5:36.

High school teachers described 3 new course proposals. Sally Hendon said she is looking for a way to offer upper level instruction to band members, so she is proposing a freshman band class, which would allow freshmen to increase their skills while upper classmen can cover more difficult material. Currently there is just one band period a day. There are about 28 kids in band, and some others who would have liked to take it but couldn't fit it into their schedules. S. Hendon would plan for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and perhaps some 10<sup>th</sup> graders, to be in the freshman band class. Kids would be able to audition to be in regular band, though they would have to do that before summer. S. Reber asked, are there any kids in high school band who haven't played an instrument before? S. Hendon said no, because there is no time for them to get enough instruction. S. Reber asked about band for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. S. Hendon said some kids come to middle school much more prepared than others, because some elementary schools provide more instruction. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, she works on catching students up. C. Hindes said up until last year, it was often the case that an 8<sup>th</sup> grader would have to choose between band and taking math or a foreign language at the high school, but now can take band and still take a high school class in addition. (*K. Roberts arrived at 5:47.*) The freshman band class would just be called Band, and the band class for upper classmen would be called Wind Ensemble. D. Taylor asked if S. Hendon is thinking this would lead to more kids in band overall. S. Hendon said hopefully it will eventually. D. Osborn asked how the new class would fit in with S. Hendon's schedule. S. Hendon said the chorus teacher should be able to cover some of what she's doing now.

Krista Huling presented a proposal for a social studies class called We the People. We the People is a national program with the primary goal of promoting civic competence and responsibility. The culminating activity is a mock congressional hearing, which is also a state competition. There are 3 schools that currently compete in Vermont. The winning team goes to the national competition. This would be a half-year course. The final assessment would be the state competition. K. Huling currently has 5 classes and an advisory. To add this course, she would be willing to have 6 classes for half the year.

Bill Haines, who used to be state coordinator for We the People, spoke about the program. He distributed information about what is covered in the course and how it correlates to the VT framework of standards. The writing requirement is rigorous. K. Huling said it is nice to have an organization supporting you with resources. They send ideas, lesson plans, and resources, and provide free books. They also provide

professional development. She has been to some of their trainings, and she found them amazing.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, are there any issues with K. Huling teaching 6 periods? B. Schaffer said no. He will deal with working out the schedule matrix. D. Taylor said the contract has a provision for individuals who choose to take on another section. S. Reber asked, would there be any prerequisite? Could 10<sup>th</sup> graders take it? K. Huling said she is hoping to allow 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take it as an elective. A passing grade in 9<sup>th</sup> grade history would be the only prerequisite. S. Reber asked, does it overlap with Problems in Democracy? K. Huling said that is typically a senior course, which focuses on international as well as U.S. issues. This new one focuses more deeply on just the U.S. Constitution. It is also for kids who like the challenge of the competition aspect. D. Osborn asked whether there are standards about the way the course must be taught. B. Haines said the only requirement is that the course has to be taught in a classroom, not just to pre-selected students. K. Huling said the program offers training, but it is not required. S. Reber asked, do students compete as a team, or as individuals? K. Huling said as a team. S. Reber asked, is this being taught at only 4 high schools in VT? B. Haines said some teachers are using the book in courses, but not participating in the competition. They are trying to encourage more schools to participate in the state finals, but that is a teacher decision.

Peter Lavigne proposed an AP U.S. History course. He was approached last year by Whitney Kaulbach, who said many students were interested in a second social studies AP course. They decided he would pursue this, so he got training at the AP Institute in St. Johnsbury this past summer. They would plan to offer AP U.S. History and AP World History in alternate years. Students would already have taken a broad survey U.S. history course as sophomores. In the AP course, they could look at issues in a deeper way. The 3-year cost projection would be \$7,140. There is no additional staffing cost.

D. White said both the proposed social studies courses show good correlation to skills we want students to learn through content. Social studies is good for integrating fundamental crosscutting skills. D. Osborn asked, if there were a third social studies AP course, what would it be? P. Lavigne said there is a Governance AP class, and K. Huling has an interest in governance. S. Reber asked how many students on average have taken AP World History? B. Schaffer said this year there were 12 students in AP World History, 13 in AP Calculus, 6 in AP Chemistry, 2 sections of AP Literature with 15 students total, and 2 in AP Studio Art. D. Taylor said AP courses can give students the opportunity to have fewer required courses at college, which saves time and money.

S. Reber said none of the proposed courses require additional staff, and costs are minimal. Can anyone think of obvious downsides? K. Roberts said scheduling is often a challenge for the school and for kids. Conflicts can make some classes unattainable for some students. The more courses we add, the more of a problem that will be. B. Schaffer said technology has taken a step forward. Now students enter their preferences, and based on student responses, scheduling software figures out a schedule. K. Roberts said sometimes in order to take AP calculus, a kid can't take AP history; kids have to

make tough choices. S. Reber said offering AP U.S. History and having someone find out they can't take it doesn't seem worse than not offering it. K. Roberts said it just teases kids sometimes. D. Taylor said the PowerSchool scheduler allows putting in criteria – for instance, that two particular classes should not be offered at the same time.

D. Osborn said it would be great to get follow-up on proposals from last year. B. Schaffer will give enrollment information at a future meeting.

C. Hinds said next Monday will be the next joint faculty meeting for middle school, high school, and tech center faculty. There has been rich dialog at the meetings. They are carrying that forward into November. D. White said on Oct. 24 there is going to be an opportunity for science and math teachers from the middle school to work with elementary teachers. P. Ingvaldstad asked, are teachers of tech center courses with embedded math credits part of this process? D. White said the joint middle school, high school, and tech center meetings are for all staff.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the 3 course proposals.** It was agreed that the full board should not vote on these tonight, but at the next meeting. **The motion was passed, with K. Roberts abstaining.** She said she doesn't think we should vote on anything at the same meeting where it was first presented.

K. Roberts said there is a new mandatory environmental curriculum called No Child Left Inside which is being proposed federally.

The meeting ended at 6:32.