

**MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2003
Nichols School – District Office Board Room**

Committee Members Present: Kathy Bultman (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Cathy Gilmore-Nelson, Phil McDade, Tim O'Connor

Committee Members Absent: Bill Bland

Also Present: Janet Blimling, Bill Breisch, Mendy Dorris, Georgi Giese, Val Edwards, John Kitslaar, Casey Meehan, Jill Paull, Mary Possin, Gary Schumacher, Jeremy Wallace, Meghan Walsh

- I. Call to Order –Phil McDade, filling in for Kathy Bultman the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Declaration of Public Notice – Gary Schumacher confirmed that public notice had been declared for the meeting.
- III. Public Appearances – There were no public appearances.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from the October 22, 2003 Meeting – Tim O'Connor moved to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2003 meeting. Cathy Gilmore-Nelson seconded. The minutes were approved as distributed.
- V. Presentation of 10th Grade Social Studies: Document Based Questioning (DBQ): A Power Point presentation was given by Mendy Dorris, Val Edwards, Casey Meehan, Jeremy Wallace and Meghan Walsh. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Monona Grove Education Foundation, as well as summer curriculum hours. They highlighted the DBQ project on Civil War which focuses on a student's critical thinking skills, and also meets several Wisconsin State Standards in both Social Studies and Information and Technology Literacy. The long term goals of the project are to: 1) expand DBQ throughout Social Studies curriculum (elementary, middle and high school); 2) collaborate with faculty at local university systems; 3) expand use of archival research and design a DBQ archive; 4) expand and develop the process of DBQ across curriculums and the transferability of skills learned through DBQ (e.g. writing). Bill Breisch added that staff from Evanston, IL High School, who have been recognized nationally for their work in DBQ, will make a presentation to MGHS staff at an inservice on January 19, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. He invited all interested committee members to attend this presentation. Georgi Giese congratulated the team of their work on this project.
- VI. Discussion and Approval of New Course Proposals for the High School – Improving English Skills Through Direct Instruction – Janet Blimling and Jill Paull were present to discuss these proposals. They propose the establishment of 2 new electives: 1) Improving English Skills Through Direct Instruction I – and II – These courses would offer students the opportunity to improve their basic reading comprehension and writing skills to all students in grades 9-12 with instructor approval. These classes would offer a transition to reading classes currently in place at Winnequah, under the direction of Jacques Besant. Because these classes are electives, they would not require an increase in the budget. Kathy Bultman moved to forward the recommendation to approve the two electives, "Improving English Skills Through Direct Instruction I and II" to the Board. Phil McDade seconded. Motion passed. Committee members suggested these classes be offered in summer school. Bill Breisch will pass this suggestion on to Ann Schroeder, the Director of Summer School.
- VII. Director of Instruction Update – Bill Breisch reported.
 - A. Teacher Mentor Program – A collaborative grant with Waunakee made it possible to hire two teachers to work with first year teachers (new college graduates). The two teachers working with Monona Grove are Marilyn Habek and Ann Landwehr.
 - B. English as a Second Language – Currently there are 25 students receiving services at 6 schools by 2-1/2 staff members. The results of the Home Language Survey indicate that another 19 students be evaluated for services.
 - C. Purposes, Amount and Use of Student Assessment (School Board Goal) – A survey is being completed by building principals. The results will be compiled and shared with the Board at their February or March meeting.
 - D. Assessment/Grading Task Force – To date, the task force has met three times. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2004.
 - E. Mathematics – Staff development continues to be an objective for the new math materials being used.
 - F. Social Studies – The UW-Whitewater has received a grant of approximately \$1 million to work with schools regarding social studies.

- VIII. Other Agenda Items – Bill Breisch suggested the committee discuss Media Selection, and specifically R Rated movie procedures at their January committee meeting.
- IX. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held January 28, 2004 – 6:15 p.m. – Nichols School – District Office Board Room.
- X. Adjournment – Kathy Bultman moved to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Gilmore-Nelson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Recorded by,

Kim Hallock