

Curriculum and Instruction Notes
March 19, 2008

Present: Garrity, Tai, Hartnett, Currie, Duncan, Strickland

Presenters: Brian Schillaci, Don Sapanaro, Carol Unanski, Kathy Bradley

1. Purchasing of workbooks by students for micro/macro economics: this was a concern raised in public. The books cost around \$25 apiece so are too expensive to use as consumables. If an individual student wishes to purchase the book for his/her own use, that option will be available. The "opt in" purchase idea will be reviewed next year to see how it worked.
2. Gifted and Talented: In addition to clustering and in classroom support the district is considering a one hour pull out session for the G/T coordinator to track the progress of students' work on their projects. Currently the G/T program is envisioned as cluster grouping with push in visits by the coordinator as well as pull out for an hour to an hour and a half once a week. We are investigating purchasing the Renzulli Learning program to use as a resource.
3. Partner Teaching: Mr. Schillaci, Sapanaro, Ms. Unanski and Ms. Bradley presented a plan to return the 4th grade at Indian Hill to a team teaching schedule. Currently students spend all day with one teacher. Teachers would specialize in either math/science or language arts. Students would spend the morning in homeroom with one teacher, and then switch to the other teacher in the afternoon. Students would move as a group. The new schedule would allow time for interdisciplinary planning and time for teachers to become expert in one content area. The teachers are excited about the prospect and the schedule would bring consistency to the building. The 4th graders would have two teachers, in 5th grade they would move to 3 and possibly by 6th grade, they might have exposure of up to 4 teachers. The committee supported the idea.
4. 74th Saturday Reunion: The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Saturday, March 29. Ms. Currie is taking a group of teachers to Columbia to participate in a daylong reading/writing program for professional development.
5. W.R. Satz School Store: Questions were raised about the idea of having a school store at Satz School. The committee is not recommending this.
6. All teachers have met state standards for highly qualified teachers.
7. New science 7 textbook will be offered for approval.
8. Next curriculum committee meeting is April 16, 2008 at 5:30 at Satz Conference room.