

# South *Huntington Union Free School District*

## Curriculum Council

**Minutes from the Thursday, December 21, 2023 Meeting**

**4:30 P.M.**

**JKAO - Heritage Room**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Dr. Gayle Steele - Facilitator

Dr. John Murphy

Mrs. Linda LaCara

Dr. Annie Michaelian

Mr. Andrew Bronson

Mr. Stephen Toto

Ms. Cecilia Blanco

Mr. Michael Duggan

- 1. The minutes of the November 29th meeting were reviewed and adopted.**

**[Curriculum Council Minutes, November 29, 2023](#)**

- 2. Instructional Rounds Update**

- Steve felt the Instructional Rounds were very successful at Silas Wood. Steve did a debrief with Andrew and the staff, but has not had a meeting since due to the busy holiday schedule and activities at Silas Wood. He will be asking the teachers to review the bullet points and they will meet and discuss in January. As a Principal, he thought it was exciting to see the common vocabulary used through Silas Wood and he felt teachers got a lot out of Instructional Rounds. We will not be using Andrew Rudd from now on but John said we have trained about 25 percent of the high school staff towards doing their own Instructional Rounds and he is looking forward to hosting Instructional Rounds at the high school in April. We will use the old data and compare it to the new data in Professional Development. Steve said the exciting part is that as school Principal we can see what our problem of practice is but when we rolled it out to staff and explained to them what Instructional Rounds is and what they think the problem of practice is the same vocabulary came up in almost every single person's response and that is what Steve was hoping for.

- 3. [Elementary ELA Pilot Presentation](#)**

- SAVVAS - myView/myPerspectives/miVisión
- HMH - Into Reading/Into Literature/iArriba la Lectura!

We will be piloting a new ELA program for our elementary schools. The two programs we choose are Savvas and HMH. We started with a group talking about what we presently do and evaluating data and receiving feedback from teachers and parents. We realized we needed more alignment in our curriculum. With all the current research being done we figured this time we will see how we can align curriculum K-6. We made sure to research programs with K-6 and Dual Language. Savvas and HMH both met our criteria. Both of these programs have been around for a while. Savvas is updating their digital platform with feedback from teachers and students from other districts, so we will be getting the newer Savvas program. Approximately 41 teachers across the District will be participating in the Savvas program. Teachers selected were ones who we knew would be on board with the program. The final decision will be based on the program and everything that it entails and the components that come with the program. We made sure the programs were adequate and not giving us too much so that the teachers would not be overwhelmed and we would have the funds to cover the program. It is really the quality of the program and the professional development we will look at. We will send home letters to the students in the classes and in addition, it will give us parent feedback as well. Professional Development will be ongoing for both pilots and teachers knowing they must give honest feedback at the end. Gayle provided an outline to teachers on the pilots provided for each program. We shared a google form for teachers to share every week. The programs will be an adjustment and a challenge.

The HMH Pilot program will run from January 10th-February 12th and is a 3-4 week program. The Savvas program runs from February 26th-April 15th and is a six week program. The goal is that before the Spring break teachers will be finishing with the second pilot and coming back to us with feedback which will enable us to make a decision so the program will be included in the budget adoption for May. Teachers who have the material will have the choice to continue with it. The cost of the programs are similar and they both offer six year programs. We will have breakdowns available before the budget adoption in May. We should not have a problem funding the program as a lot of the older program material will come off the table.

#### **4. Update: Credit Recovery and SOAR**

With the SOAR program students who do not go to Summer School are not held back and can still stay on track for graduation. If you fail a course and are detained for a year, your chance of graduating on time drops to 50 percent. If a ninth grader fails Earth Science they go on to 10th grade and are put in Biology during the school day and then retake Earth Science after school. We started the program with 58 students and currently have 46 students in the program which we consider a successful number. The Credit Recovery Program is the second half of the year for students that we see are failing 1st and 2nd quarters. We identify the students and instead of having them just sit in 3rd and 4th quarters hoping to be successful, we put them in a credit recovery program. The student's grade will consist of 20% credit recovery and 80% will come from their day program in hopes they can pass the class and Regents. It is an extra preparatory class for students. We have had a lot of success in the past with this program. We have 130 students in the program who would have been in Summer School. Mike is doing a similar program at Stimson called SMS Lit. Whereas John's program at the high school is credit bearing, Mike's program is skill building so they are not coming up with a skill deficit in the next grade level or at the high school.

## **5. Update : WWHS/ SMS New Courses - Scheduling**

Students have finished their course selection for next year with all the new courses approved. The student selections go to counselors in January. At that time we will work on a finalized request list and be on par to have student schedules solidified and completed by the end of February. The Articulation Meeting was held at Stimson so they are working on their upcoming ninth graders and the extra period they have to take an elective. The students choose two electives in case one is not available. New courses running will depend on staff numbers and the number of students interested in the selections. A course will not run with under 12 students. Sometimes we do allow a new course to run with lower numbers but we like the 20-22 ratios.