

South *Huntington Union Free School District* Curriculum Council

Agenda for the Thursday, October 26, 2023 Meeting

4:30 P.M.

JKAO Heritage Room

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

Attendees: Dr. John Murphy - Facilitator

Dr. Gayle Steele	Dr. Annie Michaelian
Mr. Corey Blair	Mr. Andrew Bronson
Ms. Joann Hili-Carbone	Ms. Mari Hahn
Mr. Mike Duggan	Mr. Sidney Joyner
Mr. Bill Hender	Mr. Dimitri Benadel
Mr. Steve Toto	

1) The Minutes of the 9/27/23 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

-  Curriculum Council Minutes - 9/27/23

Plagiarism Policy [Murphy/Muller]

-  Plagiarism Policy

We will continue to work on the Plagiarism Policy. We will need input from all grades as it will be a K-12 policy. We have noticed the middle school students have started to use ChatGPT. As technology develops, it is going to be harder and harder so we need an understanding of what plagiarism is. GPT is 100 percent plagiarism. Currently, there is no Plagiarism Policy in South Huntington. We have to identify as a team what plagiarism is and what a Plagiarism Policy would be for South Huntington. Scott and John have looked at a couple different policies from other districts and have come up with their own idea for a policy. Several points/ideas were brought up. Some thought students should receive an automatic zero on a test if plagiarism occurred while others felt it was harsh for a first offense. They felt for the first offense the student should be allowed to rewrite or edit for partial credit and the second offense should be a zero. Other suggestions were when referring to submitting a picture it should be reworded to say purchased or provided from any internet essay site or chat service. Some also felt policy consequences may need to be different for elementary students compared to high school students. Everyone also feels that once the policy is in place professional development should be available so teachers and students fully understand the policy and consequences. John will take into consideration all thoughts, reform the policy and come back with a revised copy next month. If we are all comfortable, John and Andrew

will review the policy and then send it to Regina for Board approval. Everyone agrees a policy is needed for K-12 and consequences should be subjective instead of objective.

SMS Afterschool LIT Program Update [Duggan]

First thing to understand is that the current model we use in our district for summer school does not work well for middle school students and younger. Middle school students do not accumulate credits. Students are attending summer school to pass courses. Students register and attend summer school but they are not prepared and are lacking skills for the fast-paced summer school teaching. This year we are working on building literacy and reading comprehension skills. We are hoping with the new LIT Program we can prove summer school is not working and we can get rid of one program and build another. We have a lot of positives but one problem is that our students are not doing well with reading comprehension and they are not being provided with the appropriate tools. Comprehension of literature and information rich tests are what our students are really lacking in. In January, we will focus on literacy and content knowledge skills. We will offer a one-hour program that will run Monday-Thursday for a small group of students that will start as a pilot program and expand. Thirty minutes of the program will work on literacy work and the second thirty minutes will be more focused on the content skills, knowledge, etc. Mike will be pulling data to look at different student trends and will decide which students would benefit the most from this program. As of now, it seems like the LIT program should be geared more towards honor students who are not doing well. First quarter grades will be pulled in mid November and we will be able to produce a list of the students who will benefit from the program. We will also know at that point which teachers will be a good fit for the program. Staff is responding positively to the program.

Eligibility Policy Update [JMurphy]

- 1st quarter grades
- Number of students affected

The Eligibility Policy has been revamped. This was to make sure students who are in clubs, extra-curricular activities and sports were focusing and balancing their school work and activities. During the Fall sports season, all students had to do weekly reports which paid positive dividends. Every five weeks grades were reviewed. First, students are identified at that time and if they weren't meeting the eligibility requirements they were put on probation. This means students can still play but are given a warning that if they continue down this pathway there will be further consequences. Second, if they continue to fail after they were put on probation, they will become ineligible which means you are still on the team but cannot dress, play or participate in any events. Lastly, if you continue to fail you will have to forfeit the team and you will be removed from the team roster. During Fall sports, 8 students out of 500 were ineligible with about 30 students becoming probational. We were very happy seeing these results and it tells us our Eligibility Policy is working.

English Novels/Coordination of Works [Hili - Carbone]

In the past few weeks we have had teachers at Silas Wood and Stimson let me know that their novels are being used as read-alouds at the intermediate level. It is great that the teachers are doing read-alouds, but it is not good when students come up to Silas Wood and Stimson and are already familiar with the book and the book becomes redundant. It currently happened with two books that are mandatory books for Regents. We are hoping by sharing our book lists with you that this will no longer happen. If a student reads independently that is different, but we are hoping the books on the lists provided to you will not be used. Joann will be happy to help any teacher choose novels.

Attendance Policy Update [JMurphy]

- Comparison from 22/23 to 23/24

This committee was instrumental in getting two policies updated. The Attendance Policy and the Eligibility Policy were updated with the Attendance Policy receiving Board approval. Although it is early in the years, the Attendance Policy proved to be successful at Whitman and Stimson during the first quarter. Since modifying our Attendance Policy, which also intertwines with our Eligibility Policy, the number of students arriving late has dropped by 30 percent and the number of student absences dropped by 20 percent. The new Attendance Policy looks promising. John will be providing more context in the upcoming weeks.

Instructional Rounds Update [Toto/Hender]

- Review of SW meeting 11/9

Silas Wood is excited to be hosting Instructional Rounds on November 6th. Over the course of the school year, Steve and Adam have met with five teachers (with an additional 8-9 more to be trained) that were trained last year in defining what Instructional Rounds will look like. It was a rocky start, but they rolled out the details at their Faculty meeting in September. They discussed what Instructional Rounds is and what it is not. There was confusion as to whether or not it was an observation. We had a meeting two weeks ago and sent a memo out to teachers to see what they thought the problem of practice is at Silas Wood and only one answer did not revolve around vocabulary. We left the meeting in a good spot and are working on the presentation that will take place on November 6th.

DEI Committee [Steele]

- Formation of Committee
- Goals

We are forming a DEI Committee for the first time in our District. One of our neighboring districts has formed a committee in response to state requirements of making sure their curriculum and culture are diverse. We will be doing the same and a lot of it comes from our work with Tracey. We will have our first meeting next week. Our committee consists of two Board members (Erin and Sidney) Dimitri for

administration, 3 teachers, a clerical and a teacher assistant who are all excited to be part of this. Our initial goal is to create a Mission Statement and let everyone know what we stand for and what we can get better at. There is so much negative talk about equity and diversity we want this committee to highlight the positivity. We are looking to form partnerships with the Anti-Defamation League. We want to get a lot better at making everyone believe they are part of the community. We are looking to bring in new programs and show the positivity and kindness within the District while highlighting everything we do.

ELA Curriculum (Elementary) [Steele]

- **New Programs/Direction**

We are looking to have a programming coach for K-6 so this might be the perfect time to incorporate booklets as to what the expectations would be for each grade level. One of the reasons why we are looking at K-5 is we have always used a workshop approach without being a workshop district. We have collected a lot of resources over the years and now we have come to a point where we are trying to bring it all together. You have probably heard talk about the Science and Reading challenges and the importance of their effects on how we approach phonics and the way we teach them. A lot of districts who are teaching districts are piloting programs that are more phonics based on the primary levels but still allow for the guided reading approach. When you move into a program you are looking at more grade level materials. We will have kids above and below so we are not moving our guided reading approach. We can certainly incorporate any guided reading novel lists within whatever we choose. Our Humanities Coaches, Jessica Farmer and Tricia Wilkinson, have been looking at programs and will be having a presentation in the next couple of months. We are hoping to narrow it down to two programs (K-6) which we are hoping to pilot in January so that by the end of this school year we will have something to bring to the committee. We will also be looking to put some professional development in place for K-6.

New Programs [Toto]

- **i-Ready Math (6th grade)**

With any new program, there are always bumps in the road. The Silas Wood staff has been great. Steve was a little worried because when teachers left at the end of the school year not everyone was 100 percent comfortable with the i-Ready program. Some are still not 100 percent comfortable but doing the best they can and working hard to make sure our kids are learning. The first professional development we had on Superintendent's Conference Day was not what it should have been. We are having another professional development meeting in two weeks focusing on what we need which is the actual program itself. I think it will give the teachers the opportunity to talk to the representatives of i-Ready and to share their thoughts and see what ideas they have. We are definitely coming along with the program.