



## **Curriculum Advisory Committee**

September, 5, 2018  
UES LGI

*Per BOG 006.2, all public meetings of the Board of Directors,  
including committees, are audio recorded.*

**Meeting called to order @ 7:15 PM**

**Minutes from the (5/3/18) Joint SEC/CAC meeting reviewed and approved**

**No old business**

### **New Business**

- Buck Institute and Project Based Learning Update - *Informational and Community Connection Opportunity*
  - PBL approach found to be more engaging for many students. Hands-on learning, more interactivity, authentic and relevant work-products.
  - Aligns nicely with state drive for more STEM education and career and technical education.
  - 3 days of PD during August with all teachers. Teachers gave up one of their traditional set-up days to get the 3-day, gold-level certification from BIE.
    - Covered the key elements of PBL:
      - Focus on standards-based learning goals and key knowledge
      - Framing around challenging problems or questions
      - Requirement for sustained inquiry
      - Authenticity of project and product
      - Importance of student voice and choice
      - Student and teacher reflection on process
      - Importance of peer critique and ongoing opportunities for revision/improvement
      - Public sharing
        - Many projects will require parental and/or community involvement in the process itself
        - Opportunities for community involvement in structuring and taking part in celebration and sharing of products—can occur throughout the year.
        - Grade-levels are still working through how many projects to engage in, how many products to require, and timelines for sharing.

- In many cases, especially at ES, grades are already doing things like this (Hunger Games; Hero project at MS); this will just enrich and build on what we have.
    - In some MS/HS classes, it may be more of a new thing. We probably won't see a single grade-level project; the expectation here is at least one major PBL project per course.
    - May also influence affect the way APEX projects are done.
    - At HS, public sharing will likely look different—some might even be online instead of in-person.
      - Requires close cooperation among MS/HS teachers to protect students' time and not overwhelm them
  - Trained in cohorts of no more than 30, matched with a facilitator trained in the area of specialization of that cohort—even in special subjects like Music.
  - Community members are encouraged to visit the BIE ([www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org)) website to find resources, project-ideas, etc.
  - Great, engaging sessions with a lot of excitement among faculty. Many teachers came out of the training with projects ready to implement.
  - Dr. Malone shared some photos taken during the training.
  - Dr. Malone also shared a video used during the training (<https://vimeo.com/38247060>), demonstrating how to teach students of any age (even Kindergarteners) how to offer constructive and useful critiques to their peers as part of a longer-term, iterative process.
    - Teachers engaged in the same process with each other, as they developed their projects.
  - Didn't want to wait till October or February for this training. Expectation is to experiment all year long; try one now and see how it goes.
    - Should see formal projects in classes at all grade levels, but also incorporation of the key elements threaded throughout instruction more organically.
  - Will highlight this effort during back-to-school nights to make sure parents understand PBL and what to expect when they visit classrooms.
  - There will be a sustained support visit or two from national PBL faculty later in the year. Dr. Malone will assess needs during the fall and plan follow-up support.
  - PBL trainer faculty said the NHSD staff were the best they've worked with.
- Curriculum Review Cycle
    - District staggers review of subject areas so that only one or two subjects are new in any given year.
    - SY19-20, focus on English/Language Arts and Health/Physical Education. Teachers already prepared to jump into new curriculum writing during the year. They've already been doing standards mapping and reviewing possible

- new text series (that was Step 2 of the five-step process, carried out for ELA, Health, and PE last year).
- New science, art and music materials, developed last year, are posted on the district website.
  - Preliminary (draft-form) Look at Keystone and PSSA exam results
    - Early data—final expected for November board meeting
    - Keystone Algebra: overall proficiency rate = 79.0%
      - We usually exceed state results in Literature, Algebra, and Bio, and did again last year.
      - Strong representation in Advanced column in Algebra and Bio: lowest in Literature.
        - Area for growth—but it could also be a reflection of test exhaustion among 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Could be more about student willingness to score high than student ability. We have two AP classes in literature at this grade level, where kids routinely score 4s and 5s.
      - Algebra: most students in PA take this test in ninth grade. Here, most take it in MS.
        - 97.6% proficiency for those completing Algebra in MS.
        - 50% proficiency for those taking Algebra for the first time *in* HS (about 40 kids, last year).
          - Students have three opportunities to take the test and score at the Proficient level.
          - Making progress, year-over-year, in providing earlier exposure to Algebra concepts
          - Project-based assessment is available for those who just can't pass the test (IEPs and other reasons). Tends to be in the single digits per grade level.
            - District has the right to waive testing requirement after a single try, if the IEP makes a strong case for it—to keep students from experiencing repeated failure and frustration.
    - PSSA
      - Testing in all grades, 3-8
      - As with Keystone, data is only in draft format—final data coming soon.
      - We see strong scoring in proficient and advanced. Low representation in basic and very low in below-basic for all grade levels.
      - We've had some minor score-drops in grades, especially when tests change.
      - Hoping for cleaner YOY comparison & cohort-growth data representation for the November board meeting
      - Dr. McKenna warns that the difference between Basic and Proficient or Below-basic and Basic can be a handful of questions, and may not accurately reflect any one child's true understanding. It's one data-point among many.

- Future-Ready PA Index
  - State assessment measures
    - PSSA & Keystone
  - On-track measures
    - Emphasis on gap-closure for certain cohorts and subjects
  - College and career readiness measures
    - We do a lot around these state standards, more formally at HS, but we're working to capture and report what we're already doing.
    - Also bringing some initiatives down to lower grades (Naviance down to Grade 5 this year).
- Start of School on 9/4/18
  - Enrolment
    - Still enrolling students as of 9/5
    - Overall class numbers are higher in MS and HS; lowest at LES
    - K-2 numbers are low: under 80 per grade
      - Historically, we have a lot of kids returning at MS and HS
    - Preliminary class size report
      - LES 218
      - UES 313
      - MS 337
      - HS 514
  - Sections
    - Everything is within district guidelines
    - Opened a 4<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten class
    - K-5: 4 sections per grade except for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, which has 5 sections
      - Lowest max at K and 1 levels
    - MS-HS: sections of 15-28 kids for most courses
  - HS renovation
    - Open for business on time. Most of the school looks clean, painted, renovated.
    - Classrooms are all done. Library still TBD; expected for 10/1.

### **Public Comment**

- Re curriculum review: could we have better communication to parents when teachers are pulled out of classrooms to do work like this, beyond PD days?
  - Dr. Malone says this only happened to one teacher, one time at ES
  - But MS science, it was the whole team
  - Now that we have a multi-year cycle, we're doing more prep work ahead of time, so it's not happening as much as it did in past years.

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 1**

**Adjournment @ 8:50 PM**

