

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**  
**Academic Achievement Committee**

Tuesday, June 20 2017  
Board Chambers/Auditorium  
9:00 A.M.

Present: Rev. John Matias, Maureen Slade, Katherine Downes Lewis, Dr. Ron Gorman,  
Jane DeGroot, Pat Reagan, Dr. Christopher Hanks, Stephanie Davis

Absent: Raynard Ross

**Public Comment**

None

**Instructional Council Update**

Ms. Pat Reagan, school reform coordinator provided the final Instructional Council updates for the school year of 2016-2017. Dr. Mulonge Kalumbula, instructional council and curriculum supervisor for social studies presented a new course, Spanish for the Medical Professions. This was developed as a result of a year-long collaborative effort to design valuable new world language courses to be piloted at Innovation Central in the fall of 2017.

Spanish for the medical professions is designed to help students develop verbal and written proficiency and fluency in Spanish that is particular to the needs of the medical and health fields. Anatomy, professional conversation, grammar, and vocabulary in Spanish as they relate to the medical field are central to the curriculum. Cultural aspects that may affect professional-to-client relationships are also explored.

The syllabus and course description for this proposed course was unanimously supported by the instructional council members as a pilot for the 2017-2018 school year. The council requested that Mr. Brennan and Dr. Kalumbula return to the instructional council during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2017-2018 with detailed course update. The curriculum work on the assessments, supplemental and core materials is continuing through the summer of 2017. Community partners' support will also be formalized so that the workplace connections to employment options are available as students enroll and progress in this course.

The next instructional council meeting will be scheduled during first semester of the 2017-2018 school year and will be facilitated by the Grand Rapids Education Association.

**Priority Schools Year-End Report**

On behalf of Bridget Cheney, executive director of Pre-K, elementary and K-8's, Ms. Pat Reagan provided a report reflecting the year-end status of the priority schools. The current list of priority schools is decreasing. The District is currently working on the student achievement with the "Big Three Initiatives" as the major emphasis of all schools especially priority schools.

The schools that are currently on the priority schools list and strategies addressing deficits are listed below:

---

- Alger Middle - culture and climate, close and critical reading, and high quality questioning
- Coit Elementary - formative assessment, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), and Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- Dickinson Elementary - Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), and flexible grouping
- Ken-O-Sha Elementary - quality questioning, Universal Design for Learning, and student engagement
- Burton Elementary, Burton Middle, and Westwood Middle have plans waiting approval

Literacy focused professional learning and coaching provided by ASCD faculty members has been a primary improvement strategy. This embedded professional development builds on last year's Fisher-Frey introductory professional learning that addressed the following topics:

- Deepening leader's content knowledge
- Infusing the learning into practice by implementing
  - Learning targets and success criteria
  - Gradual release model
  - Formative assessment
  - Culture and climate in literacy

The spring MAP testing window ended in the middle of May. Schools with multiple grades takes more than a day or two to unpack the data whole school and by grade levels, study sub groups, and the implemented strategies had on the data. Currently, schools are working on preparing school improvement plans based upon the data that are due on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Museum School**

Dr. Christopher Hanks, principal at the Museum School shared an update of the highlights and progress that this new school is experiencing. The Museum school is a center of innovation in Grand Rapids Public Schools. The innovation and design of the program is reflected in the experiential, design thinking, and integrated curriculum. As a centers of innovation are partially defined by the active involvement of its community partners. The following organizations have and continue to contribute to the schools development:

- The Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Grand Valley State University
- Kendall College of Art and Design
- Ferris State University
- City of Grand Rapids
- Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.

Learning in the Grand Rapids Public Schools Museum School takes place through the process in which the artifacts or exhibit goes into a collection for preservation, to interpretation and curating into a presentation. We take state standards across core content areas and try to find overlapping connections between standards. Students' application of transfer goals is highlighted through project cycles that correspond to marking periods in traditional schools and address the integrated standards.

---

In a middle school, our goal is to produce 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates who will be:

- Creative, collaborative problem-solvers
- Proficient in self-guided learning
- Prepared for museum apprenticeships

Thanks to the XQ grant awarded in September 2016, the work on preparing the high school curriculum and design have accelerated and the construction has begun at the old site of the public museum, 54 Jefferson Street. The school will be moving in the fall of 2018. The Public Museum High School will feature:

- Art Design Studio where students will explore web design, virtual reality, and information technology
- Artifact Lab with direct access to GRPM artifacts, curators, and tools
- Collaboration and instructional spaces reimaged from the ground up
- Curriculum emphases in design and innovation, global awareness, and sustainability
- Advanced partnerships with higher education, business, and cultural institutions

There are five XQ learner outcomes:

- Literacies
- Knowledge domains
- Original thinking
- Collaborative capacities
- Learning for life

Who attends the Public Museum School? Middle/High school grades 6-12

- Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in 2017/2018
- High school opens in the fall 2018
- Approximately 95% GRPS residents
- Approximately 50% previously attended Non-GRPS schools
- No academic prerequisite

### **Early Middle College at Ottawa Hills High School**

Dr. Ron Gorman, assistant superintendent of K-12 schools, and Jane DeGroot provided information on the new Early Middle College program that will be located at Ottawa Hills High School. The school will be comprised of a five year program that begins with grade 9 and continues through grade 13. In grades 10-12, most classes will be offered on the high school campus. In year 13, classes are almost exclusively held at Grand Rapids Community College. Students will participate in graduation activities with their original class, if they wish. They will not receive their diploma at that time. Their GRPS diploma will be awarded following year 13. Students who complete the Associates Degree will be fully included in the college graduation ceremony.

Benefits of Early Middle College include:

- Ability to earn an associate's degree in less time
  - Training beyond high school is most important
  - The workforce needs workers who are college educated
  - Students are still classified as high school students, the school district pays all tuition and fees for the GRCC classes using State Aid (Foundation) money
-

The Early Middle College allows students an opportunity to earn the following:

- Free tuition and fees, approximately \$7,000 in savings
- A high school diploma and up to an Associate degree from Grand Rapids Community College
- It can reduce the number of years a student will spend in school

The enrollment requirements are:

- Students must have a minimum of a 2.5 (C+) GPA
- Students must demonstrate good attendance and commitment to learning
- Students must take an Accu-Placer college-readiness assessment required by Grand Rapids Community College

If a student begins to struggle:

- There will be support structures available from both Ottawa Hills High school and Grand Rapids Community College (i.e. academic counselors, success coach, and mentoring programs)
- There will be available tutors and academic support groups
- Students and/or parents should report any type of struggle as early as possible

### **Alternative Education Programs**

Stephanie Davis, principal for Southeast Career Pathways, Bethany Based Education Program (HEX) schools provided updated information addressing the alternative education schools requirements and procedures.

- **Southeast Career Pathways** is located at 1356 Jefferson SE. It is a small learning environment where the individual learning needs of students are considered and valued. This program provided students an opportunity to complete the graduation requirements for high school by focusing on core classes while earning a high school diploma.
- **Bethany-Based School** is a small learning environment of up to 26 students where the individual learning needs of students are considered first. Bethany is a center-based program that serves grades 6-12 court appointed students. It is located at the Beckwith Building at 2405 Leonard St NE. It offers education to students that have received a long-term suspension by the assigned school and/or Student Services.

### **Program Overview**

- Students must be at least 17 years old and off track for graduation by at least two years or more.
- Many of these students are either disengaged and significantly behind in credits.
- Some have experienced behavioral challenges and feel that they can be successful in a smaller and more personal setting.

### **Graduation Rates and Results**

- Southeast Career Pathways
    - Forty six students have graduated during the 2016-2017 school year
    - Forty four students have graduated in 2014-2015 school year
-

- Bethany
  - Three students graduated during the 2016-2017 school year
  - One student graduated in 2014-2015 school year

Meeting adjourned 10:07 a.m.

---

Rev. John Matias, Chairperson  
Raynard Ross  
Maureen Slade  
Katherine Downes Lewis

/dct