



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Council

Meeting

Notes

April 26, 2016

Board Rooms 1 & 2

3:30 – 5:00

1. Welcome

Cathleen Corella, Administrative Director Curriculum & Instruction and GATE, welcomed the group.

2. Educational Services Update

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen, Deputy Superintendent, discussed the Town Hall meetings that have been occurring at the Orange Unified high schools. There has been a great turnout with many teachers, principals, and other staff attending.

Dr. Hansen provided information about services we will be supporting through our LCAP. We are going deeper and doing more with our professional development to support teachers. More supplemental materials and textbooks, including support for ELs and foster youth. Also included in our LCAP are instructional technology support, AVID, and additional AP sections. She noted that even though we have added more students to AP classes, we have not decreased AP test passage rate. Also, we will be offering acceleration and original credit to students during summer school, instead of only credit recovery. A detailed analysis will be discussed at the May meeting. You can see the LCAP draft online.

3. Textbook Adoptions

Cathleen Corella explained to the Council that we are looking at new instructional materials for many of our high school courses. Teams of teachers from each high school have been reviewing publisher materials. For each publisher, teacher reviewers fill out a rubric (an example was provided to the Council). At this meeting, teacher reviewers presented curriculum that they recommended for adoption for Psychology, AP Physics C, Conceptual Physics, AP English 12: Literature and Composition, and Statistics. Teachers explained the analysis that they had done of the programs and why they were recommending these programs for adoption. The materials will also be up for review at GATE CAC, and they will also be providing their feedback.

4. Curriculum Overview – Unique Learning Systems

Sara Beggs, Coordinator Inclusive Learning, presented an overview of supplemental curriculum, Unique Learning Systems, for moderate/severe SDC classrooms. Currently teachers are attempting to modify curriculum to meet students' needs, which has been challenging because it is not consistent through classrooms, the level of rigor varies, and there is difficulty aligning instruction to standards. This would allow access to the standards through rigorous, standards based materials specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of students in our moderate/severe SDC classes. These differentiated materials contain three different levels and is a comprehensive reading

and math program with interactive lessons, visuals, data driven differentiated instruction, and mobile access. This curriculum is currently used by LA Unified. The plan put forth to the council would be to pilot with 3 mod/severe teachers for a month and then come back to the Council to share out on the program. Then, if approved, it would be implemented in 2016-2017 with 25 mod/severe teachers throughout the district. The Council voted to move forward with pilot but gave input that the pilot may need to be extended into the summer or fall, since it is already so late in the year.

5. Game Based Learning

Randy Kolset, Coordinator Educational Technology, presented on connecting the digital world to the classroom. Game based learning is experiential learning (experience, critical reflection, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation) with defined learning outcomes. Game based learning can actually increase motivation in decoding and comprehension. He discussed how you can build critical thinking with game based learning, such as through Minecraft Edu. Different worlds can be entered that are aligned to different content areas. When students are using it, no one else outside of the district can access. Students can even write a story to go with their creation. He also shared other forms of game based learning such as Breakout Edu, through which tasks can be given to students that they need to solve as a group. Access his presentation at <https://goo.gl/MMxEaJ>.

6. Closing

Cathleen Corella thanked the Council for coming. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.