



# ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Curriculum Council Meeting Notes

September 27, 2016

Board Rooms 1 & 2

3:30-5:00 pm

### 1. Welcome

Michael Christensen welcomed the group.

### 2. Educational Services Updates

Presenters: Gunn Marie Hansen

Dr. Hansen talked about Comprehensive Assessments and how it is aligned with California's new content standards for ELA and Mathematics. They reflect the critical thinking and problem solving skills that students will need to be ready for college and the 21st century job market. This is also beneficial to our EL students who require a bit more time and exposure. This will also be a great way for students to practice using technology. Dr. Hansen has asked for teacher feedback and will be having a suggestion window for teachers to do so. It is recommended that teachers use this comprehensive assessment two times throughout the year but if teachers wish to use it more than that it will be even better. Some questions were brought up about teachers having access to see these test before presenting them to their students. There is a "View" feature on the website where teachers can view the assessment test.

### 3. Unique Learning System Update

Presenters: Sara Beggs

Sara provided the Council with an update on Unique Learning Systems. This system is a comprehensive replacement Curriculum for the Moderate/Severe SDC program. Unique Learning System is an award-winning, online, standards-based set of interactive tools specifically designed for students with disabilities to access the general curriculum. Users interact with differentiated, thematic units of study with text-to-speech, and interactive components. Each student's academic profile in Unique Learning System generates his or her instruction. The support levels are:

- **Level 1:** Student requires extensive and pervasive support. Increasing participation is the main objective
- **Level 2:** Students may require symbol support and other direct instruction for learning and comprehension.
- **Level 3:** Students read text, produce simple writing, perform basic math processes, and demonstrate comprehension of modified learning information independently.

The program was piloted at 1 elementary school and 2 secondary schools during spring and during ESY. On August 19<sup>th</sup> teachers from middle and high school were trained on how to use the curriculum and were given access to a free trial of Unique Learning System. The feedback from these teachers has been good. Many have been using it in their classrooms and feel students are engaged. Proposal was presented to members and council approved the proposed expenditure.

### **Swanky Brain- Social Stories for Inclusion**

Sara also presented to the committee a proposal to implement the Social Stories Book series in our schools. This series of books was created by Nelly Valentine, who is an OUSD parent. The Social Stories Book series encapsulates events; situations with words and illustration while infusing behavior strategies. This is a concrete way to shape perspective, reinforce social skills, planning and organizing. Social Stories tries to connect with the child by using vibrant supporting pictures. When a child reads a social story repeatedly, it gives an opportunity to process the positive message and make it easier to take that message and make them applicable to real life situations. Proposal was presented to members and council approved the proposed expenditure.

### **4. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Portfolios**

Presenters: Nicole Van Wilgen Moore and Leticia Gonzalez

Nicole talked about Digital Portfolios in the elementary level and shared examples of student work. Nicole then shared student examples of Seesaw at the elementary level. Students can take photos, records a video, draw, type notes, save pictures in a camera roll, and link. Students set goals and go step by set to meet their goal. Teachers can comment on the progress of the student's goal. Parents have access to their own student's digital portfolio, but the teacher can control what the parent can see or does.

The main objective for digital portfolios is goal setting and progress. Leticia then followed with a presentation of some of her students work in her 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. Leticia is the EL Advisor/ teacher at Orange High School. She explained how Seesaw is being used at the high school level and is a way to display student work among classmates, the teacher and parents as well. She specifically focused on her beginning EL students and how Seesaw and Google Sites have helped these students improve the English language as well as set and meet goals. Some of the key points that Seesaw creates are;

- A platform for discussing, sharing work with others and connect the English language.
- Proof of learning
- Enhances classroom culture
- Engages/increases student motivation
- Data Collection
- Incorporates technology

### **5. Instructional Materials Adoption Timeline**

Presenters: Cathleen Corella/ Lisa Green

Lisa Green discussed the current pilots that are in the elementary and secondary level. Everyone was handed out handouts for Instructional Materials Adoption timelines. The current pilots in the elementary level for ELA are Benchmarks and McGraw-Hill. Secondary Math are piloting envision 2.0, Springboard and Big Ideas. Other adoption at the secondary level are AP American Government, AP Macro Economics, and AP Biology.

Some important dates that Cathleen and Lisa emphasized on:

- October 5, 2016 – Teacher/Admin Twilight
- October 19, 2016- First Math Committee Meeting
- November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016- Publisher presentation to teacher during Professional Development Day @ Orange High School (8am-3pm)

Cathleen introduced a new committee that they want to launch called Secondary Math Course Model Committee. They are looking for stakeholders (parents, community members, teachers, and administration) to join this committee to deepen their understanding of both traditional and integrated course models and develop a recommendation of how to proceed in Orange Unified. The committee will meet on October 19 and November 2, 2016 from 3:30-4:30pm. Curriculum Council members were asked to help encourage stakeholders to participate and take part in this committee. Interested participants are asked to fill out an application and turn it in to Lisa Green by October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

#### **6. Closing**

\*Cathleen thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM