

Strategic Planning Notes

Roll Call: Tom Bomann, Tim Broeckert, Arnold Shober, Raj Dugal, Chad Cotti, Rolando Sanchez, Sarah Roe, and Terri Meisel

Guests:

EPC teachers - Mr. Fager, Ms. Foley, Ms. Shinnars, Ms. Bomann, Ms. Schroeder, Ms. Alba, Ms. Jiskra, Ms. Lariviere, Ms. Cihlar, Ms. Crownhart, Ms. Duesterhaus, Ms. Osorio

Classical School Mission: *Building a just and excellent educational foundation*

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Dugal moved to approve the agenda for the June 1st, 2020 strategic planning meeting. Mr. Shober seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Public Comment: none

Educational Program Committee Meetings

History (Foley, Shinnars)

Status of current objectives

- Provide updates on middle school materials
- Provide updates 3rd-6th grade adoption of new history books
- Assess benefits of CK history books in K-2nd grade and present proposal if needed

The EPC met a few times to discuss with focus on preparing Ms. Shinnars for curriculum and ensuring she was set up for success. EPC talked a bit about textbooks but didn't make strong progress. 1-6 would use core knowledge history textbooks (exception 2nd grade, but will next year). Looking for direction from the CCSA board about how to proceed with 7th/8th curriculum and whether the board prefers a textbook. Need to determine how curriculum is added for the last decade and where would it be trimmed in order to make room for the content. First quarter topics are very dense in content and detail so could enable some optimization and making room. The EPC is looking for direction on how many books (American History, World History) and whether funding exists. Consider moving faster with textbook implementation for 2nd grade and take time this next school year to assess 7th/8th grade books. Grades 3-6 textbooks were just updates so do not require approval (large book broken up into smaller books by subject).

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Review Core Knowledge history books for 2nd grade

Science (Foley, Fager, G. Bomann)

Status of current objectives

- Execute 5th-8th grade iScience adoption according to implementation plan
- Plan a middle school science fair

The EPC did meet weekly in the beginning of the year and then progressed to once a month. Feedback from teachers on the new textbook was positive, kids were doing well and appreciated the consistency of the textbook. The math component did become a challenge for 5-7 grades given difficulty especially for grade level math students. Reviewed concepts and practiced in the classroom to help. The pace was a bit slower than how EPC paced out originally. Discussed removing the weather unit in 5th grade. 6th grade challenge was genetics so potential to scale back or remove given students will get genetics again in 7th/8th grade. Science Fair was focused on 8th grade. Expanded options beyond just experiments which allowed students to focus on things that they were much more interested in. 8th graders were ready for the Science Fair when classes ended. Mr. Fager focused on student preparation and Ms. Bomann focused on event planning. 7th grade was going to pick from 3 different experiments that would be completed in class.

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Continue to refine delivery, pacing for school year
- Science Fair

Math (Alba, Schroeder, Shinnars, DeGoey)

Status of current objectives

- Assess students' needs for use of Saxon 8/7 and/or Algebra Essentials and provide updates including measures of success
- Define student achievement reports and communicate to the board

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

The EPC discussed the validity of omits for 5th-8th grade and then math facts for the lower grades. Consulted with teachers of omits to understand the purpose of omits (why) and it seemed due to repetitiveness, poorly worded problems, and the workload for the students. Facts assessment at grade level math was going to be a focus for the spring but didn't get to given the situation with COVID-19. Did not address the upper two bullets given need to address omits and math facts. Omits have been historically done for 6th grade and above for 10-15 years, more recently added to 5th grade given the schedule that is shared with 6-8 grades. Omits were added to grade level 5th grade math to be consistent with advanced 5th grade math. Omits not needed for 4th grade given the longer math period. The staff is still discussing the plan for Ms. Diedrich and her students for next year.

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Develop a template for grade level math (question listed, prompts - labels, start with most difficult problems to enable working on it class, * (star) problems that are going to be repeated moving forward.) Charge workbook fee. This template would take some time for teachers to prepare given unique by lesson.
- Define student achievement reports and communicate to the board

Physical Education (Jiskra, T. Bomann)

Status of current objectives

- Continue K-6 curriculum documentation for succession planning
- Incorporate curricular tie-in activities where possible

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

The EPC worked to create a systematic plan for physical education by skill and grade level. Work is still in progress but the skeleton plan is drafted. Looking to use teacher symposium to build curricular tie-ins to the games for physical education. Created and posted playground game rules for support staff and students to avoid fighting/disagreements on the playground.

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Finalize curricular plan
- Define curricular tie-ins to games/activities

Fine Arts (T. Bomann)

Status of current objectives

- Reintegrate music history

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

Music history is in the correct spot in general music so no further focus needed.

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year - consider discontinuing and not moving forward with Fine Arts EPC for next year.

World Language (Lariviere, Cihlar, Grover)

Status of current objectives

- Spanish
 - Autentico implementation
 - Conversational spanish implementation
 - Evaluate co-teaching strategies in K-1 and assess student impact

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - none

Spanish:

- Autentico implementation - Positive overall and video clips were more relevant. New workbook was a bit confusing for middle school students given it being two sided, potential to print next year and put into student binders but would still have to purchase workbooks (unless offers blackline master). Potential to maintain 4-6 workbook given they worked well.

- Conversational spanish implementation - Created initial guided speaking planning guides and rubrics, revised as needed and adapted for age/level. Did not leverage this during the distance learning environment.
- Co-teaching strategies - Unable to meet face to face but gathered some feedback. Positive - well organized, Negative - losing extra prep time and it wasn't actually just 15 mins they lost, it ended up being more.

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Conversational spanish implementation
- Co-teaching strategies

English Language Arts (Cote, Nagreen, Osorio, Duesterhaus, Crownhart, Tassi, Elms)

Status of current objectives

- Create a document depot housing a sufficient sampling of writing across grade levels/projects to serve as a baseline - in progress...continue
- Articulate measures of success for the following pilots in progress...vote to approve
 - 5th Writing/Rhetoric
 - 6th Writing/Rhetoric
 - 6th Spelling/grammar reductions
 - 6th Iliad delivery
 - 6th Don Quixote delivery
 - 7th Writing/Rhetoric
 - 8th Writing/Rhetoric/humanities
- Assess need/impact for 4th grade ELA block...remove
- Assess need for 5th grade direct instruction...remove
- Create a rubric template for...ongoing (review/update rubrics)
 - 4th-6th expository research paper
 - 7th-8th persuasive thesis papers
- Set scope of topics for 8th grade thesis...move forward
- Define books and assessments to be covered at each grade level (no variance between classes unless skill level grouped)...ongoing (focus on teaching through novel based reading)
- Oversee & judge annual essay contest...ongoing

Pilots to be approved, extended, or denied - Mr. Dugal made a motion to approve the writing and rhetoric as part of curriculum, Ms. Roe seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The EPC did meet in February but currently working to link documents (writing student samples and actual assignment). Examples share what 'average' work looks like. Created a gmail inbox owned by Classical for teachers to submit examples. Remove line item for 4th grade ELA block. Continually discuss ways to improve reading so 5th grade direct instruction is always an option but not driving forward actively. The rubric template (research paper) is something that the teachers review each year as well as the MLA formatting, etc (grades 3-8). Desire is for veteran teachers to help prepare novel based instruction for new teachers for the various novels. Novel based instruction is challenging especially for newer teachers. This could be a good focus area for the next school year.

Discussion around 4th grade advanced reading program. Two major concerns - 1) replicating Ms. Coenen's skill set and approach to teaching, and 2) programming incongruencies between accelerated and grade level learners given the migration to combined classes for 5th grade. Objectives - want to maintain rigor with novel instruction, important to determine a way to provide efficient, effective reading/writing for students, and how to assist with a consistent succession plan. Desire is to determine a backfill for 5th grade as quickly as possible to aid in onboarding and setting up for success. The team is looking for the go-ahead to investigate further and build a proposal to be shared with the board at a later date (next month).

Objectives for 2020-2021 Academic year

- Set scope of topics for 8th grade thesis
- Grade 4 advanced reading program supports
- Create a rubric template for...ongoing (review/update rubrics)
 - 4th-6th expository research paper
 - 7th-8th persuasive thesis papers
- Create a document depot housing a sufficient sampling of writing across grade levels/projects to serve as a baseline

Administration Updates

1. Introduction to Canvas
 - a. Canvas is an approach to augmenting assignments/grading to inform parents. Infinite Campus will remain but Canvas will be added as well. Content on google classroom will shift to Canvas. Teachers will be investigating further versus trying to message off Infinite Campus. CCSA board discussion around how Classical would leverage and whether there is a need to further clarify expectations with teachers/parents. Mr. Bomann to discuss further with teachers.
2. Introduction to I-Ready Diagnostic Tool (MAP replacement)
 - a. District testing but not state mandated and aids in student assessment when entering from other schools. I-Ready takes about as long to implement but is preferred by the district because there is a backend to this test. I-Ready site offers remediation by providing students extra support in areas that they are struggling in. District will no longer be continuing the MAP tool. RTI (reliable and valid instruction) offers different levels and can be adjusted based on progress and is currently utilized by Classical so may not need to leverage tools from I-Ready. Classical has the option to move forward with I-Ready or choose to not do a state test.
3. Couple positions to fill for 2020/2021 school year
 - a. 4th grade
 - b. 50% secretary / 50% paraprofessional
 - c. Band teacher moved to Ferber/Einstein. (two internal candidates applied - Julie Brown selected)
 - d. Choir teacher moved to Einstein. Position posted but candidates not identified yet.

Discussed options for strengthening onboarding for new teachers and continuing onboarding of this year's teachers.

4. Instruction with lesser engaged students - Mr. Bomann spending time weekly with students as needed.
5. Preparation for pick up/drop off - Mr. Bomann shared there has been a lot going into planning to ensure success.
6. Teacher evaluations - extended to the end of June but evaluations will finish up over the next few weeks.
7. Graduation/Awards - Videos complete will be shared with families. The drive thru graduation ceremony is June 3rd, 2020. Student signatures will be gathered for 8th grade graduate t-shirts.
8. Pick up / drop off - 800am - 530pm June 4th and 5th, 2020. Mr. Bomann is expecting that roughly 30% won't be picked up/dropped off. Team is working to determine how communication goes out to families who didn't attend.
9. KAT fundraiser - CCSA board discussed setting up a paypal account in addition to a collection being set out at drop off / pick up event. Paypal will take 2.2% from money gathered since we are an organization.

Approval of minutes from May 7th & May 19th - Mr. Dugal moved to approve the May 7th and May 19th 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Roe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Strategic Plan Discussion Items

1. Confirm board meeting dates for 2020-21 academic year: 9/10, 10/8, 11/19*, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 5/26
2. Remove (1.4). It pertains to volunteers which is duplicated in goal #6. - Remove
3. Add to (1.7), "attend or review AASD board meetings." - ADD
4. Remove from (2.1) the responsibility to provide self evaluations to admin team & EPC's. - remove
5. Handbook - signed off by end of July
6. Review (2.2) for any changes needed around on boarding procedures. - Documented procedures including weekly meetings and expectations around use of existing materials
7. Review (2.3) for opportunity to articulate any particular areas of focus. - remove chromebook policy and replace with "monthly best practice"
8. Review (2.3) to determine if Duyen videos should be removed and changed. - remove
9. Add (2.3) task related to documenting and planning for future distance learning
10. Review (3.1) to determine if there is interest in defining non-voting members or term lengths. - review and address any needed changes in the by-laws (term lengths).
11. Add (3.1) establish board member exit best practice
12. Add (3.2) - Provide/allow for a role for voting/non-voting staff/teacher role
13. Review (3.2) to determine if "guideline" has been updated to "policy" in the school handbook. - to be done
14. Review (3.2) to determine if there is a need to add, remove, review, or organize other board policies.

15. Modify or remove (4.3) for an accurate measure of success. - continue with generic language
16. Modify (4.5) to specify an annual report be provided to the board in lieu of monthly updates.
17. Remove from (5.5) reinforcement of best practices for redundancy (2.3) - remove
18. Review (5.6) for an accurate measure of success. - update curriculum proposal so that implementation plan includes pilot (trial length, final approval, rollback) vs. adoption
19. Remove (6.3). - remove
20. Review (6.4) to determine if this will move forward, be changed, or removed. - keep
21. Review (6.5) to determine if this will move forward, be changed, or removed. - keep
22. Review (7.1) to ensure measures of success match expectations for the year. - change restaurant night out to business partnerships.
23. Add (7.x) - establish a list of uses for funds (training, building needs, etc)
24. Review (7.2) to ensure measures of success match expectations for the year. - staffing baseline may be complete.
25. Nominate & approve officers
26. Approve committees & chairs

Roles

1st - Rolando, 2nd - Arnold, all in favor

	Broeckert	Cotti	Dugal	Meisel	Roe	Sanchez	Shober
President	X						
Vice President Compliance			X				
Secretary				X			
Treasurer Finance						X	
Public Relations					X		
History EPC		X					
Science EPC				X			
Math EPC						X	
Physical Education EPC					X		
World Language EPC	X						
English Language Arts EPC					X		X

Compliance: 1.5 hour prior to board meetings

Fall '20 COVID-19 Planning

Need to comply with DPI statewide mandates but do have some flexibility to deviate from what AASD determines for 2020/2021 school year. At this point, it is uncertain what the City of Appleton, AASD, and DPI will choose to do.

Need to plan for:

- If no students are able to return, what tweaks to virtual learning needed
- If some students/staff won't be able to return (50% capacity)
 - Alternating days
 - Alternating am/pm
- All students back as normal

S, S-, N grading system has caused some students to lose motivation. Really need to consider more of a traditional grading system.

Concern shared about how to start K/1 in the fall, potential to consider challenges with bringing in young students.

Need to schedule time with the teaching staff while information/feedback is still top of mind regarding virtual learning. Consider more of a workshop/committee approach to enable a more collaborative environment for teachers and board to brainstorm collective approach. Consider breaking into grade level sessions (K-1, 2-4, 5-6, and 7-8) with some consideration for 2nd and 4th grade accelerated and grade level. Plan session for next Tuesday (6/9) and manage via breakout groups.

K-1 Tim/Sarah

2-4 Tom/Chad

5-6 Terri/Rolando

7-8 Raj/Arnold

Motion to adjourn - Mr. Cotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Shoher seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.