

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

**APRIL 16, 2012**

### **MINUTES**

The Curriculum Committee meeting was held in the classroom of Brian Visger. All of the members of the Social Studies Faculty from the High School and Middle School were present. Kathleen Lucey and Richard Wilkinson, Board members on the Curriculum Committee, were also present. Administrators Brian Sutton, Matt Shappell, Jerry Pritzl and David Westhoff were in attendance.

Tom Tenpas was the first presenter and he provided handouts that described the syllabus of the three courses he teaches. Mr. Tenpas described the focus of Consumer Economics, General Economics and U.S. History. Research is an important component of the US History course.

Dan Barber was the next presenter and he described the three courses he is teaching - Psychology, Sociology and World History. Mr. Barber expressed his belief that textbooks are essential for World History and not as essential for Psychology or Sociology. Mr. Barber indicated that he uses multiple assessments and the 6 Traits of writing.

Brian Visger was the third member of the HS Social Studies faculty to present an overview of the courses he teaches. In addition, Mr. Visger described the AP US History course he will be teaching during the 2012-13 school year. Mr. Visger teaches American Government to Sophomores; Geography to Sophomores. Brian indicated that political discussions are an important component of the American Government course. Writing is stressed as well as research. Brian will be participating the AP Institute this summer to prepare for the teaching of the AP US History course in the fall.

Greg Kallungi was the first member of the Middle School Social Studies faculty to present to the Curriculum Committee. Greg teaches World Cultures that also includes a focus on current events. Student writing is an integral part of this course. Each class period is 52 minutes.

Brad Anderson, 7th Grade teacher, was the next presenter. Brad will be teaching in the High School during the 2012-13 school year. Brad currently teaches US History that studies the period from discovering America up until the Civil War. Multiple Assessments; 6 Trait writing and research are integral components of this course.

Paul Kenas, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, was the last presenter. Paul focuses on themes including Map studies; Life Skills; Bill of Rights and SE Asia culture. The students use the internet extensively. Google Docs are also an important tool in this course.

Kathleen Lucy asked if the Social Studies Standards were aligned to the common core standards. The Social Studies Standards are aligned to the WI State Standards at the present time and will likely become part of the Common Core Standards in the next couple of years.

Mrs. Lucy and Mr. Wilkinson asked what resources would be most helpful for the Social Studies Curriculum. The staff indicated that improved access to computers would be very important.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 P.M. The next Curriculum Committee meeting is

scheduled for Friday, April 27th. The agenda will consist of the review of the K-5 Social Studies Program.