Curriculum Advisory Committee

August 16, 2016

High School Library

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. In attendance were: Dan Read, Jamie Nelson, Janie Steward, and Laura Caler. Voting via email were Heather Messer and Jill Larson.
2. Unfinished Business

* Dan informed the committee that the recommended math curriculum and new Building Blocks of Science kits have been ordered.
* Bev noted that the roster for CAC members indicates there are some openings for membership. All continuing members (including the principal, superintendent, and curriculum coordinator) serve on an on-going basis. The selected members serve for terms of 3 years.
* (*This information was not a part of the minutes…but was included to answer the question as to what positions need replacement or filling*). Ultimately the school board must approve candidates. The positions noted in italics are open for more or new members:

Selected Members . Continuing Members

1 school board member curriculum coordinator

*1 parent* (term expired) principal

*1 business representative* (term expired superintendent

*1 high school student*

3 teachers (1 not filled)

*1 other employee* (classified staff)

These positions were announced in a recent Odessa Record article. There have been no responses. A future discussion might include discussing the possibility of recruiting potential members through personal contacts.

1. New Business

* Laura Caler presented her proposals for the adoption of literature books to be used in her high school English classes.

Laura shared the high school themes she focuses on at each grade level.

* + Freshmen – “Coming of Age.”
  + Sophomores – “Cultures”
  + Juniors/Seniors – “American Literature” and “World Literature.”

*The Great Gatsby* is a recommended piece of literature for high school ELA classes. It would be used alternately with the 11th and 12 graders and is currently used in the AP class. It is taught over a 3-4 week period.

* The freshmen read “To Kill a Mockingbird” and Laura felt a good paring to use in the sophomore class would be “The Help.” It is set in the South during the 1960’s. The book touches on sensitive topics, but .Laura felt with careful guidance, it could effectively be used with the sophomores. “The Help” provides an insightful study on minority cultures. It is an excellent book to use across subject areas…especially social studies, and it gives an in depth picture of the inequities resulting from prejudice and segregation.

Jamie made a motion, seconded by Janie, to recommend the adoption of the “Great Gatsby” and ”The Help.” The motion was unanimously endorsed by the members.

Meetings will be at the same time as last year (Wednesday mornings the week prior to school board meetings) and based on the need. Decisions will be made regarding the updating of the Syllabi currently required of teachers. Dan will determine the criteria. Jamie suggested it be kept concise but also make sure it is a useful tool for parents, subs, as well as for teachers. Ideally is should be posted online.

The meeting adjourned 8:30 am.

Bev Scherr