

MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING OF SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 160, SENECA, ILLINOIS

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on September 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Jason Eltrevoog, Rich Hamilton, and Ron Frye. Also present: Jim Carlson, Marty Voiles, Eric Vroman, and Shane Trager.

I. New Courses

Mr. Voiles introduced the title of the two new courses being offered during the 2019-2020 school year. Those classes are:

Python - computer programming language, Teacher - Mr. Nick Kirkton
American Government-Dual Credit course offered thru JJC, Teacher-Mr. JR Welsh

Mr. Voiles reviewed facts explaining the Python course was a course that is added to the new STEM sequence of courses that are now offered at SHS.

Mr. Voiles explained the American Government course is one of the many dual credit courses added to our curriculum and that we offering this course thru JJC because of the financial savings that JJC is able to offer our student.

II. New Staff

Mr. Voiles summarized the start of the school year as it pertains to our new staff and that each of our first year teachers comes to SHS with prior teaching experience. Mr. Voiles also explained that these teachers are off to a tremendous start and are being observed by the several members of the administration. Staff members recognized were:

Blake Slutz - Special Education teacher
Jessi Holman - Guidance Counselor
Brian Holman - Math teacher
Jonathan Ruby - Science teacher
Jace Walsh - Social Studies teacher

III. Co-teaching

Mr. Voiles discussed the various courses that are being co-taught during the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Voiles explained that during the 2018-2019 school year we co-taught a single course in English and this year we expanded the co-teaching umbrella and are now co-teaching in content areas of Science and Math, in addition to the English department. Mr. Voiles discussed we are now co-teaching in five different courses and this is not only assisting our students with IEP's but aiding our regular education students as well.

IV. SAT Results

Mr. Voiles reviewed SAT test scores of the class of 2020 and reminded committee members that our scores, although improved in English from the previous school year, are not improving in the content area of math. Dr. Carlson also mentioned the overall test scores that our incoming freshmen have had over the last few years and

the results show students are entering 9th grade with assessment results well below grade level. Also reviewed by the administration were the benchmarks set forth by the state of Illinois and how these marks differ from bench marks established by the College Board when defining who is College and Career ready.

V. Consultant Work

Dr. Carlson explained in detail the work being conducted with education consultant Sherry St. Clair and the SHS administrative team. Dr. Carlson's point of emphasis were to explain to committee members that the over-arching goal of this work with the consultant was to assist the administration with classroom observations and developing strategies the administration can use to help teachers improve instruction, which in the end will provide students with a higher level of instruction. Dr. Carlson explained that Ms. St. Clair has been contracted for approximately (14) site visits in an attempt to complete her work with the administrative team.

VI. P/T Conferences

Mr. Voiles explained the new three-phase system that will be utilized to improve parent communication with SHS teachers. Mr. Voiles explained that much of this new approach was generated from feedback provided by parents at the conclusion of Parent-Teacher conferences in the fall of 2018. The three phases being implemented during the 2019-2020 school year are:

Phase I - Curriculum Night, August 22, 2019

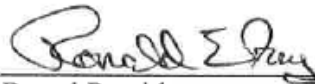
Phase II - Traditional Parent-Teacher Conferences with students, October 9, 2019

Phase III - SSP Meetings, February 20, 2020

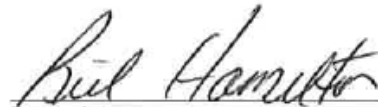
VII. Title I/Academic Supports

Mr. Voiles shared that our SST academic supports period remains I place this school year. Academic Centers assisting students in core subject areas are embedded in this support period and our Weekly Eligibility Report is the main data source driving student placement. Reviewed the START program's role in providing student support.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Board President



Board Secretary

9-18-19

Date