

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

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on March 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Jason Eltrevoog & Sara Olson. Also present: Mike Coughlin, Kristine Einhaus, Jennifer Frye, Kristi Pabian and Dan Stecken.

A. Curriculum updates

Mr. Coughlin spoke in general terms regarding some curriculum highlights for the 21-22 and 22-23 school years. The students that began the Honors English program at SHS will be enrolling in their last English courses as seniors during the 22 - 23 school year. Student interest in the Honors English program has remained at a high level. Eighteen students are enrolled for English 1002, which allows them to earn 3 credit hours with IVCC, for next year. The Social Science department has been advocating for World History to be taught as a year long class, it's currently a semester, allowing for greater and more in depth coverage of content. The co-taught classes continue to be positive for SHS students and faculty.

B. National & Education Standards

Mr. Coughlin shared the legislation passed in August of 2021 requiring the adoption of a new comprehensive sex education class that aligned with the National Sex Education standards. Although the standards have been shared, ISBE has yet to officially adopt them. Mr. Stecken added that Seneca High School has some options to determine the best course of action for our students and community. A decision will be made in the coming months to either continue with current health curriculum or adopt the new state standards.

C. 5 Essentials Survey

Mr. Coughlin shared information related to the current percentages and the upcoming closing date for the 5 Essentials Survey. The SHS students have a current completion rate of 87%. The SHS teachers have a current completion rate of 88%. The SHS parents have a current completion rate of 23%. All three percentages meet the minimum needed to generate a valid report that the school improvement team will need for future areas of focus. The survey focus areas are: Effective leaders, collaborative teachers, Involved families, Supportive environment and Ambitious instruction.

D. Three C's

Mr. Coughlin updated the committee regarding the three C's listed in the Seneca Way. The three C's are: Communication, collaboration and critical thinking. All three areas have been the focus of the school improvement team and faculty regarding best practice with instructional strategies.

E. Career/Job Fair

Mr. Coughlin updated the committee regarding the upcoming Career/Job fair that SHS will host on Thursday, April 28th during the school day. Mr. Chris Jackson and Mrs. Stacey Gould are working collaboratively on inviting a lot of local businesses and employers. Although jobs may not be offered on the spot, this fair could lead to summer jobs for many SHS students. Just as important, SHS students will get to learn about many different career pathways and the daily skills that are required for a specific career.

F. Athletic eligibility

Mr. Coughlin informed the committee of the new eligibility requirements for the SHS student athletes during the 22 - 23 school year. The policy has been simplified and approved by the Board of Education.

G. Final exam exemptions

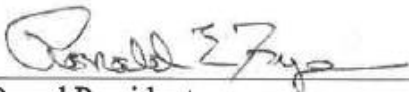
Mr. Coughlin informed the committee of the new final exam exemption requirements for all SHS students during the 22 - 23 school year. The policy has been simplified and approved by the Board of Education.

H. Title 1/Academic supports

Mr. Coughlin spoke to the fact that quality academic interventions should begin with the teacher, student and parents. In some cases, students are referred to the Student Assistance Program(SAP) at Seneca High School. The team evaluates each referral to develop a plan that will support the student. Oftentimes, the recommendation is made to utilize the START program at Seneca High School. In addition to START, some SHS students are supported through accommodations or specialized instruction listed in their IEP. Lastly, SHS has recently implemented an after school program that has benefited a small group of younger students.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.


Board President


Board Secretary

3/16/2022
Date