

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 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Rich Hamilton. Also present: Mike Coughlin, Kristine Einhaus, Jennifer Frye, Chris Jackson and Luri Lomtz.

1. 23 - 24 course updates

Mr. Jackson shared information regarding some new curriculum highlights for the 23-24 school year. Mr. Jackson spoke about both Student & Career Success and Human Growth Development for Healthcare Workers. The Student & Career Success will be a semester long class that will be a new graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2027. Students will focus on career exploration and overall student success. This class will meet the Computer Literacy standards as set by the Illinois State Board of Education. Human Growth Development for Healthcare Workers will be a year long class designed for both Juniors and Seniors that have completed the CNA course. Mr. Jackson gave a brief explanation of the work of Ms. Peeples with IVCC to begin an English transition course(! semester) that will provide an opportunity for SHS students to be exempt from any non credit bearing courses.

2. PE uniform top

Mr. Coughlin shared a new policy coming out of the PE department for next school year. All Physical education students will have a common shirt that will be required. All students will be given one shirt at the beginning of the school year at no additional cost through registration fees. Students will have the opportunity to purchase additional t-shirts for ten dollars. The PE department members have met with administration to advocate for this change in policy. The PE department is excited for the change and doesn't see that enforcing the policy will become a discipline issue.

3. 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 80%. The SHS teachers have a current completion rate of 86%. The SHS parents have a current completion rate of 17%. 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.

4. Career/Job Fair

Mr. Jackson updated the committee regarding the upcoming Career/Job fair that SHS will host on Thursday, April 27th during the school day. Mr. Chris Jackson is working with all of the local businesses and employers that attended last year's event and has added some new employers too. 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.

5. February SSP meetings

Mr. Coughlin gave an update to the well attended SSP meetings hosted on 2/8/2023. We will plan on continuing these meetings and working on making improvements. For starters, we will invite all students Freshman through Seniors, next year. The focus of these meetings is intentionally shifted from classroom, homework and grades to what goals the students have after Seneca High School. Approximately ninety families will be able to take advantage of the seventy-five dollar discount for their 23-24 registration fees.

6. 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. He also discussed the need to reinstate the attendance requirement for the 23-24 final exam exemption criteria. At the March 2023 faculty meeting, the teachers discussed and shared their recommendations for missed periods to still earn exemptions. Other criteria of two minor discipline referrals and earning an A in the class would remain as they are this year. The policy has been simplified and approved by the Board of Education.

7. Social Science articulation

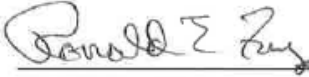
The articulation meetings continue to be beneficial for Seneca HS, Milton Pope, Seneca Middle School and MVK middle school. Seneca High School hosted the Social Science departments last Friday. Items that are discussed are: content area resource and materials, writing expectations and any upcoming changes to curriculum offerings. A positive item at our last meeting was to confirm with the teachers from the different feeder schools that they were making the correct recommendations for students to take AP Human Geography. Mr. Jackson shared the process of teachers from feeder schools making the class recommendations.

8. RISE update.

Mr. Coughlin gave a brief update on the RISE student incentive program. RISE has been an excellent addition to the overall culture at SHS this school year. Mr. Slutz and Mr. Adams have done an excellent job in promoting RISE and communicating to faculty and students all year. The 2nd semester started off with an assembly for the students and distribution of the RISE cards. Last month, they hosted a Valentines day social for specific card holders. Right now, they are making plans for a Jimmy Johns delivery day in the next couple weeks. Their focus has been to recognize the students and reinforce a positive culture.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.


Board President


Board Secretary

3-15-23
Date