

## **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 5, 2025 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, Jessi Holman, Chris Jackson and Kristi Pabian.

### **1. 24 - 25 course updates**

Mrs. Holman & Mr. Coughlin shared information regarding some new curriculum highlights for the 24-25 school year. Mr. Kelsey Adams will be teaching a Dual Credit Introduction to Sociology(Soc. 1000) class beginning in the fall of 2025. The class will be open to all Juniors and Seniors with the opportunity to earn three credit hours through Illinois Valley Community College. Mr. Adams has a requirement to complete two additional masters level Sociology classes over the next two years.

### **2. 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 0%. The SHS teachers have a current completion rate of 42%. The SHS parents have a current completion rate of 22%. All three percentages are currently lower than 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. The entire SHS student body will complete their 5 Essential survey during SST on Friday, March 7th.

### **3. Step-up day, College Fair & Career/Job Fair**

Mrs. Holman gave a brief review of Step-up day, SHS College fair and the upcoming Career/Job fair that SHS will host on Thursday, April 24th during the school day. Mrs. Holman shared the positive outcomes for both Freshmen Step-up day and College fair. SHS hosted approximately thirty different colleges and Armed Forces reps to speak with all SHS students about their post secondary goals. Guidance counselors are working with all of the local businesses and employers that attended last year's event and will add 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.

### **4. February SSP meetings**

Mr. Coughlin gave an update to the well attended SSP meetings hosted on 2/5/2025. We will plan on continuing these meetings and working on making improvements. We did invite all students Freshman through Seniors this 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 one hundred and five families will be able to take advantage of the 150 dollar discount for their 25-26 registration fees.

5. Final exam exemptions

Mr. Coughlin informed the committee of the final exam exemption requirements for all SHS students during the 24 - 25 school year. The attendance requirement is the same as last year. Each student can earn exemptions as long as they meet the 16 period absences or less. Other criteria of two minor discipline referrals and earning an A in the class would remain as they are this year. All went well this school year, the only adjustment for the spring 2025 final exam exemption criteria is including an ACT incentive for the Junior class. All Juniors(Class of 2026) will have the ability to earn one additional final exemption if they attend five ACT prep classes or have a three point improvement from their Jan. practice test to the April assessment.

6. ACT prep classes & Testing dates

Mrs. Holman spoke about the robust offering of the ACT prep classes offered at Seneca High School. Ten different classes covering all subject sections, taught by our own teachers and during the school day. This type of program is a significant upgrade over other prep classes that may offer ¼ of the classes with a hefty price tag too. Mrs. Holman gave a detailed review of the upcoming assessment for SHS students. The PSAT 8/9 will be taken on March 17th, PSAT 10 will be March 19th, and the SAT will be April 8th.

7. RISE update.

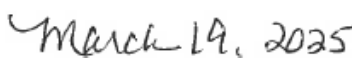
Mr. Coughlin gave a brief update on the RISE student incentive program. RISE has been an excellent addition to the overall culture at SHS this school year. Mr. Slutz and Mr. Adams are doing a great job in promoting RISE and communicating to faculty and students all year. Their focus has been to recognize the students and reinforce a positive culture.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

  
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Board President

  
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Board Secretary

  
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Date