

**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 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Rich Hamilton. Also present: Mike Coughlin, Jennifer Frye, Chris Jackson(counselor), Chris Jackson(parent), Kristi Pabian and Dan Stecken. •

A. 23-24 Academic recap

Mr. Jackson shared some information regarding the 23 - 24 school year. He highlighted SHS Illinois State scholars, grade breakdown for the end of the school year and percentages of post secondary choices for the Class of 2024. He stated that the percentages were in line with last years' graduating class.

B. 2024 Summer school update

Mr. Coughlin shared the 2024 Summer school numbers for both Dual Credit Speech, Driver's education and World History classes. In the DC Speech class, through an additional cost to the family, students are,able to earn 3 credit hours through IVCC. Mr. Coughlin commented on the numerous benefits of offering the summer classes even with declining enrollment.

C. Freshman orientation

Mr. Coughlin informed the committee regarding the 2024 Freshman orientation. SHS held the orientation over a day and a half on August 15th and 16th. He sent out a survey to all Freshmen to get feedback on their experience. The results received from forty-six survey results were all very positive.

D. Parent Involvement

Mr. Coughlin reviewed the three nights that parents are invited to collaborate with SHS faculty on their student's educational needs. Parents attending all three nights will continue to receive a full discount on 25-26 registration costs. Curriculum Night was held on Tuesday, August 27th. P/T conferences will be held on Wed., Oct. 9th and SSP night will be on Wed., Feb. 5th.

E. Irish building culture--Hilight & Great Places to Work.

Mr. Stecken shared the reasoning behind hilight recognition software and Great Places to Work survey which are both new to SHS for the 24 - 25 school year. RISE will have a big part of taking over the Success at SHS and using the hilight software as a unique way of recognizing both staff and students. The Great Places to Work survey will be available for all staff to participate from 9/4 - 9/18. Based on the results, SHS could possibly be named as a "Great Place to Work". The feedback will be utilized to continue to make SHS a great school. The recognition will be shared during the application and interview process to attract the best candidates for future teaching positions.

F. School Links & Magma Math

Mr. Coughli shared information regarding School Links and Magma Math. School Links will become a one stop shop for everything SHS students will need after high school. It's a robust software that includes interest inventory to lessons on How to succeed in HS to college info., virtual college visits and ability to host resumes, scholarships

and college applications. It's going to be a wonderful program that will organize our work as we work to align student success, a student portfolio and post secondary opportunities.

Magma Math is another software being used this year, and replacing Aleks, for our Math dept. And one special education teacher that has numerous self contained Math classes.

G. College & Career Pathway Endorsement.

Mr. Coughlin reported on the new platform created by ISBE to organize our work based learning opportunities. Seneca High School received full approval from ISBE for their 1st plan for the 24 - 25 school year for a Health Sciences pathway endorsement with our Basic Certified Nursing Assistant class being the work based component. Mr. Coughlin will begin work on the 2nd plan for SHS in the Career Cluster of Human & Public Services with a Education pathway.

H. Course updates

Mr. Coughlin reported on a couple fairly new classes at Seneca High School. In our English dept, Mrs. Liberatore is offering a new Transition English Language(Eng. IV) course is off to a great start.

Mrs. Foster's new class is off to a great start too. The Student and Career Success (SCS) class just completed the first unit on Email Etiquette.

Mr. Walsh shared that they are wrapping up our introduction unit in AP Human Geography with a test tomorrow (9/5). Students have been discussing the basics of human geography with the Geo-Inquiry process while connecting these theories to the real world! Students are adapting well to higher, college-level expectations. We will next move into our unit on Population and Migration Patterns and Processes. Over four school years(2021 - 2024) AP Human Geography students have excelled with the end of Year AP test. Overall pass rate is amazing!

AP Pass Rate:

2021: 20/21 (95.2%)

2022: 8/9 (88.9%)

2023: 10/11 (90.9%)

2024: 11/12 (91.7%)

Total: 49/53 (92.5%)

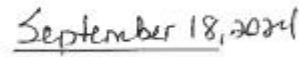
I. Cell Phone & Late work policies.

Mr. Coughlin shared the early success of two new policies implemented during the 24-25 school year. The cell phone policy has gone surprisingly well for students and teachers, alike. Mr. Giertz has had no discipline referrals related to cell phone issues over the first twelve days of school. Another small change is the late work policy. Students turning in late work are now expected to turn in their assignments the following day(75%) and the next day(50%). After two days late, they would earn a zero for that specific homework assignment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.


Board President


Board Secretary


Date