

**UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

September 24, 2018

6:00-7:30 pm

**CHAIR:** James Glackin

Ex-Officio: Dr. Kerry Drake, President

**MEMBERS:**

Stephen Cunningham

Joan Smith

Superintendent – Dr. Alexis McGloin

Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Andrea Farina

Attendance: James Glackin, Steven Cunningham, Andrea Farina, Bryan Ruzenski, Allison Stephens, Sandy Kassel, George Reigle, Margaret Lerch, Amy Lychock, Lora Mayer, Andy Graham

**AGENDA**

1. Review of staff and community survey for the use of federal funds for programs and professional development.
  - a. [Community Federal Funds Survey](#)
    - i. Dr. Farina discussed the community federal funds survey which was sent out in the spring of 2018. This survey will be used to determine allocation for federal Title 4 funds. This is not the only data source that can be used to make this recommendation. We have invested in Defined STEM in order to facilitate STEM integration K-12. There was an exceptional parent response for this survey. The school district also invested in intervention programs with Title 4 funds.
2. New/Updated Course Recommendations
  - a. AP Environmental (new)
    - i. Mr. Graham, course writer for AP Environmental Science, provided an overview of the new AP Environmental Science course being introduced.
  - b. Middle School Chorus (update)
    - i. Dr. Farina provided an overview of the middle school chorus course, which has been running over the past year. This course, currently enrolling 79 middle school students, needs a solidified written curriculum.
  - c. Middle School Orchestra (update)
    - i. Mrs. Lerch, course writer for Orchestra 6-8, provided an overview of the orchestra course. Although the course has been running, the written curriculum needed to be solidified. A small portion of the course will touch directly on musical theory.

- d. Digital Music (new)
  - i. Dr. Farina shared a preview of the new Digital Music course, which will replace Music & Film at the high school. This course will require a significant investment in hardware and software in order to ensure its success. Digital music allows students to produce music.
- e. Digital Design & Graphics (new)
  - i. Mrs. Lychock, course writer for Digital Design & Graphics, explained her school visitations that relate to college and career pathways in graphic design. Mrs. Lychock discussed the different tools and mediums that will be available to students through this course.
- f. Sculpture (New)
  - i. Mrs. Mayer, course writer for Sculpture, spoke about the new sculpture course being introduced. Mrs. Mayer spoke about the need to keep 3D design in the art department, but restructuring the course and expectations. The sculpture course will feed the AP studio art program. Dr. Farina discussed that animation may be introduced in the future. Due to the small size of the department, it is not reasonable to expect two teachers to write an animation course at this time. A short animation project may be introduced in the digital design and graphics course.
- g. 4th and 5th Math & ELA (update)
  - i. The curriculum review process from three years ago did not yield a written curriculum. Beginning this year, three teachers are writing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math and ELA with the hope that in subsequent years, grades K-3 can also be written.
- h. 7th and 8th Honors ELA (new)
  - i. Dr. Farina and Jodie Sell gave an overview of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors ELA course changes. Mrs. Sell shared that common assessments were established for the classes. Vocabulary resources were added for all 6-8 ELA courses. Julius Caesar has been introduced in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade as well as other additions. Mrs. Sell shared a core/honors comparison chart with the committee. Dr. Farina also shared an overview of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors ELA course. Lisa Colapietro and Casey Lewis, both 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, spent time collaborating with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teachers to write the 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors ELA course. After the honors courses are completed, time will be spent on raising the expectation for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and the 6-8 core ELA curriculum. Mr. Glackin suggested that Khan Academy is a great resource for grammar instruction. Mr. Cunningham made a suggestion to consider teaching APA format along with MLA format.

### 3. Program Update

- a. Honors ELA
  - i. 7th Grade Unit Map
  - ii. 8th Grade Unit Map
  - iii. New Materials

- b. Spanish
  - i. Criteria
  - ii. Enrollment

#### 4. Professional Development/Programs Update

- a. Dr. Farina shared the comprehensive planning goals and the aligned professional development outcomes that are in effect right now. She explained the focus on the Fountas & Pinnell administration. Previously, this assessment has been administered by paraprofessionals. However, teachers are now responsible for administering this assessment to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment. MTSS is also a focus area in the coming school years. The middle school team will be working on integrating STEM defined in their intervention and enrichment period. All 6-12 teachers are working towards developing common assessments in each course. There was discussion on continued professional development around interrater reliability and the F & P administration.

#### 5. Technology Usage Fee Discussion

- a. Mr. Glackin brought up concerns about requiring a fee for technology usage in the school district. He was concerned about the possible legal ramifications of requiring this fee. Mr. Ruzenski explained the different fee structures of other 1:1 school districts. He also explained the different fee structures and options that may be possible at Upper Perkiomen. Mr. Cunningham believes that the as-is option is the most appropriate. He is open to exploring a family max payment in the future. Mr. Glackin believes that he may be able to support leaving the tech fee as-is, however, he would like some clarification from the solicitor on charging the technology usage fee.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2018