



St. Michael – Albertville Independent School District 885

Excellence is Our Tradition

DAC Meeting Minutes March 25, 2019

Attendance:

Community Members: T. Beack, T. Gammell, N. Harber-Welle, K. Olson, A. Ranweiler, K. Tallagario

School Board Members: H. Saville, C. Steffens

STMA Staff Members: J. Hill, J. Lurie, D. Craft, J. Ohmann, J. Ausman, S. Carlson, J. Jordheim, J. Osowski, L. Schuster, S. Ledahl, S. Ferris, T. Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Member introductions.
- II. The following meeting norms were reviewed.
 - Meetings will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and end no later than 8:15.
 - Discussion is centered on agenda items not personalities.
 - Meetings are a time to learn about STMA curriculum, assessments, and state and federal mandates.
 - Meetings are a time to exchange ideas and to hear input from the community.
 - If a concern is of a personal nature or about something that may not pertain to the entire group, a phone call prior to or after the meeting to the Director of Teaching & Learning (Teri Johnson, 763-497-6531) would be appropriate.
- III. **Media Curriculum Update:** Dr. Jenny Hill updated the committee on elementary media center curriculum and happenings. Media center schedules were shared, grade level media objectives were reviewed, and the plan to incorporate makerspaces using the Star of the North books was shared. Research supporting this addition to the media centers was also reviewed. Jill Lurie reviewed the middle school media specialist role in supporting teachers, students, and school literacy initiatives. Technology integration and the importance of digital literacy/citizenship was also stressed. Makerspaces will be introduced at the middle level as well and the media specialists will work with teachers to support student learning with these tools. Deb Craft reviewed the high school media center specialist role in supporting students and staff. Providing students with research tools and support via the Library Weebly was reviewed. A flip grid student-created video was shared as well as a video showing students collaborating in groups and preparing for the school day was shared with the committee.
- IV. **Art Curriculum Update:** Julia Ohmann updated the committee on elementary art curriculum at the Primary and three Elementaries. The elements of art are core to the elementary art curriculum. Student art work and creations were shared with the committee. The addition of Adaptive Art was also reviewed for

the committee. Shari Ledahl updated the committee on middle school art offerings. Students work in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art as well as researching art history and current art trends. Art club is offered at both middle schools after school. Student art work was shared with the committee including a mural that was creating with a visiting artist. Josh Ausman updated the committee on high school art course offerings ranging from Studio Art to Advanced Placement Art. Graphic Design will be added next school year. Student art work including many prestigious award winning creations were shared with the committee. Students are provided with additional art opportunities beyond the classroom that allow students to share their talents with the community, anti-bullying campaigns, and career exploration opportunities.

- V. **Music Curriculum Update:** Sandy Carlson updated the committee on the elementary music program. Musical foundation is established at the elementary level so that students can continue to create, perform, respond, and connect to music for the rest of their lives. Program highlights including the ukulele program were shared. Mrs. Carlson shared the complexity and breakdown of foundational music standards. Pictures of students learning in their classroom were shared as well as curricular examples of connecting students the music history and culture. Jackie Jordheim shared music course offerings at the middle school level. 5th Grade General Music exposes students to the elements of music including melody, harmony, and rhythm. Choir is offered in grades 5-8 and is a performance based class. In addition to rehearsals and performances, students may participate in music festivals, caroling, and Knights' Honor assemblies to name a few. Band is offered in grades 5-8 and builds foundational skills in tone production, instrumental proficiency and music reading. In addition to rehearsals and performances, students may participate in music festivals, pep fests, and Timberwolves games to name a few. The participation numbers in middle school band and choir have grown considerably over the years. Joe Osowski shared music course offerings at the high school. Numerous vocal and instrumental performance based courses are offered in addition to non-performance based courses such as Class Guitar, AP Music Theory, and Garage Band. Mr. Osowski shared the many accolades the music program has received recently including, but not limited to, superior ratings at music festivals, invitations and also acceptance to prestigious festivals, and collaborative performances. Students also share their musical talents in the community for various events.
- VI. **World Language Curriculum Update:** Laura Schuster updated the committee on World Language offerings at the middle and high school levels. Students are exposed to Spanish at both middle schools in exploratory classes. Introductory language basics are taught and students are able to read two short Spanish novels. At the high school level, students are offered Chinese (Levels 1-4) and Spanish (Levels 1-4, CIS, and AP). Upper level Spanish course have experienced considerable growth in recent years. Many graduated students have reported that they are able to move into higher level college Spanish courses quicker than others. Students are provided with authentic learning experiences including local excursions and overseas trips.

- VII. Questions throughout the evening provided good conversation on current successes the curricular areas are experiencing as well as hopes for program expansion in various departments including, but not limited to, additional World Language offerings at all grade levels as well as the possibility of orchestra. Although the meeting extended beyond the normal dismissal time, it was clear that STMA staff are passionate and dedicated to providing our students with rich learning opportunities in all classrooms.
- VIII. The next meeting is on May 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Development Room (C150) in Middle School WEST.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Teachers: Save these minutes for clock hour proof.