

CAC Curriculum and Instruction Committee

MINUTES FROM MEETING DATE 09.15.15

1. **Call to order:** 7:04 p.m. by Lisa Hopp, co-chair.
ATTENDANCE: Melissa Lane, Lisa Hopp, Julie Winterhalder, Maria Garbarz, Brock Friedman, Cynethie Wheeler, Suzie Sias, Mary VanSlyck, Tracy Kelly, Ian Horn, Seth Rinder, Nadia Attia; Trisha Shrode (U46 Liason), Guest(s): Marc Hans (U46 Science Coordinator)
2. **Minutes** of meeting from 30/Mar/2015 were reviewed. Brock moved to approve. Mary Van Slyck second. Motion carried.
3. **Minutes** of meeting from 15/Apr/2015 were reviewed. Brock moved to approve. Melissa Lane seconded. Motion carried.
4. Marc Hans gave an overview of the **K-8 Science Early Implementation Program**.
5. Q: What if our student is in an early implementation class but no PowerPoint was given? A: Can't really say what happened, specifically. Suggest reaching out to the teacher to find out.
6. Q: Are there incentives for teachers to be early implementers? A: There are stipends for teachers who work outside class hours. Teachers also have an opportunity to grow in career. Also have an opportunity to test out new materials and products.
7. Q: What are the new standards based on? A: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
8. Do we have a list of early implementer schools?
9. It was noted that there were many fewer K – 3 early implementer teachers than 4 – 6. Why? A: Teachers volunteer. Call for Early Implementers went out late since K-8 Science proposal was not approved by Board until July.
10. Q: Years ago it was explained to us that there was no time to put in science between reading and math. Has that changed? A: Marc is working with ELA and Math coordinators to integrate science into other curricula. Curriculum team has designed curriculum and assessments such that the science lessons are coordinated with both NGSS and common core math and ELA standards.
11. Q: Who did the aligning of the different standards? A: NGSS shows the alignment in their standards. Our curriculum writers then selected standards that were aligned to the selected math and ELA standards.
12. Q: So all teachers will be giving a common assessment district-wide? A: Yes.
13. Will Illinois be adding science to state tests? They are rolling out something this year to 3rd and 10th grades in order to comply with federal mandate. Tests are based on something Washington DC has done. It's not certain that it will continue next year. PARCC has been reduced to a single round of testing this year.
14. Q: Will we know how the curriculum is really working before we roll it out? A: What used to happen is that we would roll out a new curriculum without any early implementation so this model is actually slower and more staged.
15. Q: How many different resources are your teachers looking at? A: That will be determined by teachers as they go through the year.

16. Q: Are you willing to put off roll out by a year if early implementors find that there are problem?
A: Yes. If it takes longer to obtain proper materials, we will let it go another year.
17. Q: How do you teach teachers to teach science? A: We have really focused on professional development to help teachers with this. We have had a lot of positive feedback from teachers.
18. Q: So is the curriculum approved and you are only looking at resource this year? A: As part of the curriculum cycle, revision to the curriculum itself can happen based on feedback.
19. Q: Are high school teachers on board with this curriculum? A: The K – 8 curriculum was done with HS input to ensure it was aligned. For high school, the curriculum-writing committee split between two models for science, one is traditional biology-chemistry-physics, the other more domain based: physical, life science, earth & space science. High school will offer both tracks.
20. Q: How many years of science are required to graduate? A: 2.
21. Q: Will having two tracks dilute the course offerings in high school and cause problems with enrollments? A: Per study, 88% of HS kids are taking three years of science.
22. K – 6 science is integrated: life/physical/earth science are taught together each year. Each year gets deeper.
23. Resources for early implementers included a letter home to parents.
24. Q: How can the committee be of use to the district? A: Marc wants to know: what are your needs, are you happy with how this is going?
25. Can we get a list of early implementing teachers.
26. Can we get more communication from teacher similar to what we get for math? Communication about math has been very effective this year.
27. One parent: I heard good things about the outline of math and it would be good to emulate for science. Consider listing resources outside of school that are pertinent.
28. Assessments offered as part of this will be standards-based.
29. It was noted that libraries have lots of teacher resources that can be checked out.
30. It was suggested to start science curriculum night for principals now.

31. **Other Business:** There is a curriculum fair at ECC on October 3 9 – 12 p.m. for middle and high schools.
32. **Other Business:** Board of Education has a C&I Committee. It is open to the public. The Board can take no official action during their committee meetings. Jeanette Ward and Sue Kerr are board members. CAC & BoE are aligning their committees. The chairs of CAC committees are ex-officio members of the board committee meetings. Lisa and Melissa will go to next one, which is on September 21, 5:30 p.m., room 251 of ESC.
33. **Adjournment:** Julie motioned to adjourn. Maria seconds. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.