

The School District of Lee County

**Curriculum Advisory Committee
November 16, 2015
6:00 p.m. – Training Room D
Meeting Minutes**

Mission Statement:

To advise the School Board by recommending approaches to obtaining improved student achievement for all students through a coherent, rigorous academic course of study that provides the tools necessary to succeed in today's society. Emphasis will be placed on the dynamic development of a K-12 curriculum within a safe environment leading to both career and technical majors, the methods of instruction used to implement it, and the assessments of its effectiveness, together with a complementary professional development program to support it.

Committee Members Present: David Adorno, Elizabeth Blundo, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, April Ketrone, Tammy LaBelle, Kelly Lavis, Patti Lochner, John Steakley, Stephen Whitener, Sandra Worth, Joseph Camputaro

Committee Members Absent: Judy Wilkerson, Angela Campbell, Adrienne Felger, Tara Gillon, Cathy Trent

School Board Liaison Present: Pam LaRiviere

Staff Members Present: Brandy Macchia and Melissa Robery

Recording Secretary: Jamie Fowler

Presenters: Candace Allevato, Nick Pietkiewicz, Leslie Mikell

Guests: Ted Sottong, Antwan Lias, Elbert Zeigler

Welcome and Introduction of Members

The meeting was called to order by Patti Lochner at 6:00 welcoming all committee members, new members and guests.

Review of Mission Statement and Purpose of Committee

Patti asked everyone to review the mission statement and reminded everyone of the purpose of the committee.

Reading and Approval of October 19, 2015 agenda

There was a motion to approve the agenda as it was presented by Sandra Worth, Stephen Whitener seconded and all voted to approve.

Reading and Approval of October 19, 2015 minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes as presented by Kathleen Cherasia, seconded by Kelly Lavis and all voted to approve.

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Board Member Report

Mrs. LaRiviere shared the following news with the committee:

The NEA Foundation has approved the District for another year of the closing the achievement gap grant. The NEA Foundation also uses our District as a model for other districts on what we have done with the grant.

Starting Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Uncommon Friends Foundation is coordinating a peer to peer mentoring program. It will be kicking off with Fort Myers High School JROTC mentoring students at James Stephens.

Elementary Math Series: Go Math

Mrs. Lochner introduced the presenters Candace Allevato, Nick Pietkiewicz, and Leslie Mikell.

Mrs. Allevato shared a PowerPoint presentation that went over the adoption process for 2012 - 2013.

Adoption committee members were asked to look for the following when making a decision on a textbook:

- Which best met all K-5 students?
- Which focused on developing student's conceptual understanding?
- Designed to be students centered, so that students were the active learner and did it move them through the phases of learning math.
- Did it meet the expectations of the Florida Standards including 8 mathematical practice standards? The 8 mathematical practice standards are K -12 standards that cross curriculum making students learn how to look at a math problem and how to find the pattern.

2012 – 2013 Textbook Adoption Timeline:

- September 18, 2012 an email went out to all Elementary Principals including:
 - Textbook adoption timeline
 - Schedule for Publisher showcase
 - Survey link for Principals to fill out on how they preferred receiving information
 - School based Rubric so that schools could begin reviewing materials.
 - A list of publishers that had a bid (Approved publisher list from the State)
- October 1, 2012 Publishers opened up to the District
- December 3, 2012 the Publisher showcase took place at the District office and all district employees as well as community members were able to attend and review the materials.
- December 14, 2012 Principals were asked to finalize their selected committee members and submit one Primary and one Intermediate representative from their school to be a part of the adoption committee.
- December 20, 2012 was the closure of the publishers, meaning the Publishers were no longer able to contact schools or send materials.

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- January 2013 all selected adoption committee members were notified by email.
- February 2013 there was a training held for committee members that went over what it means to review textbooks and what we were looking for as a District.
- March 5, 2013 Publishers shared a 1 day presentations to committee members and the committee members completed the 1st and final round of evaluations going over the rubric criteria and scoring. Rubric included the following areas of focus:
 - Content that students centered approach to learning.
 - What was the format?
 - Did it have support for teachers
 - Technology
 - Was there an assessment component and what did it look like.
- March 6, 2013 Committee members discussed and made a final decision as Go Math as their 1st choice and Envision as their 2nd choice.
- End of March 2013 the selection was reviewed by District Administration.
- April 2013 results were provided to the Superintendent.

Leslie Mikell kindergarten teacher at Gulf Elementary lead the committee for Kindergarten and Nick Pietkiewicz 5th grade Teacher Leader at Veterans Park Elementary lead the committee for 4th grade.

Some of the key points brought up by the teachers were:

- Has the foundation for learning at all levels.
- Has a nice order to teaching and learning so there are no skills missed or left out.
- Includes many manipulatives
- Included lots of ideas for different centers, whole groups, and Smartboard activities.
- Comes with a Grab & go kit including manipulatives and literacy books that tie in with the math concept.
- Has a lot of hands on options
- Has resources for teaching that are helpful for new teachers and substitutes.
- Has the technology piece – online resources for students.
- Easy to follow
- Has a good system of pulling pieces together to understand. Building through the years and by 5th grade defining what was learned in the lower grades
- Helps with the importance of making 10
 - Kindergarten level gives the foundation of learning the different ways to make 10, being able to physically feel it with the different manipulatives and move forward with learning.
 - In 3rd grade making 10 with multiplication
 - 5th grade taking the understanding of 10 and placing it in a value system to grow

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When planning the textbook is a great guideline piece to look at how lessons are laid out and understanding basics of what needs to be taught and what all is needed before moving on. When extra resources are needed for planning PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) and the Academic plan are resource used.

The Academic Plan is the District's content roadmaps and is available on the District website for all to view. It was created with teacher input and includes the following:

- A layout of the proximity
- The big idea which gives an overview and resources for manipulatives. Which ones to use and how to use them. The manipulatives listed are all included in the teachers Go math kits.
- Data
- Dates of time
- Content standards
- Cross content standards constantly using Literacy, Science and Social Studies.
- Essential outcome questions – what the expectations are of the students.
- Conceptual understanding – being able to explain the why
- Student learning targets
- Supplemental and additional resources for differentiation instructional strategies and what it should look like.

When it comes to homework it all depends on the teacher how it is given. Kindergarten might be paper based or electronically given while upper levels might have to complete an essay of how and why a math problem was solved the way it was.

For struggling students teachers are able to give parents access to online resources to use at home like Strategic Intervention and a Re-teach book which gives examples and breaks math problems down for the students to understand.

When teachers first had to switch to Go Math there was an initial struggle with transitioning. Teachers had to relearn how to teach math giving the foundation and explain *why* in order to move on to the next level.

Trainings have taken place in helping with transitioning to Go Math. In the summer of 2013 teachers attended a training on new materials, how to use them and how they tie in with the Academic Plan. August 2013 Teachers were split up by grade level for the District Preschool and reviewed materials as a team and learned how to work with them. Summer of 2014 a training took place that followed understanding by design planning backwards using the Academic Plan and Go Math. The summer of 2015 a training took place that refined the planning pieces. Trainings are still currently taking place throughout the school year where one representative from each school attends a training by grade level. During this training, the teachers work as a team on putting the standards and instructional resources together.

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Committee Discussion/Questions

Ms. Lochner and the committee determined if GO Math is an appropriate resource for elementary students to help the students meet the Florida Standards for math at each grade level.

Kelli Lavis made the 1st motion to make the following recommendation to the Board:

We as a committee approve schools to continue with the use of the Go Math program. It meets the standards and forms even better learning outcomes.

Kathleen Cherasia seconded the motion and 10 people voted and agreed with the recommendation to be presented to the Board. Motion approved.

John Steakley made the 2nd motion to make the following recommendation to the Board:

We as a Committee recommend that each school have a program to help parents understand the concepts their kids are being taught and to the extent possible that the students be incorporated into that process.

Stephen Whitener seconded the motion and 10 people voted and agree with the recommendation to be presented to the Board. Motion approved.

Public Comment

Ted Sottomg works with the program *Pick Up the Ball*. It is a program located primarily in the Dunbar community that works with kids 15 and older giving guidance on how to move along and connecting through basketball.

Good of the Order

Motion to end the meeting at 7:30 made by Kathleen Cherasia seconded by Kelly Lavis and all voted to adjourn.