

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Zoom Invitation- 5:45 p.m.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Laden at 5:47 p.m.

The following Board members were in attendance: Joy Greenstein, Jennifer Laden, and Michael Murphy.

The following faculty members were in attendance: Ernesto Davila (BHS WL teacher and Faculty Advisor for the Future Teachers of America Club), Deb Farias (Director of Instruction), and Maureen Ruby (Assistant Superintendent).

The following students from the Brookfield High School Future Teachers of America Club were in attendance: Ben Bogues, Greg Freidman, and Vince Simon Diesta.

There was no Public Comment offered at this meeting.

Mr. Ernesto Davila and BHS students Ben Boques, Greg Friedman, and Vince Simon Diesta, members of the Future Teachers of America Club at Brookfield High School, presented to the subcommittee on the groups' vocabulary project. Earlier in the semester, Mr. Davila contacted Dr. Ruby to request a meeting, on behalf the students from the FTA organization, to discuss their idea for enhancing the district's Word of the Week Program, WOW!. The students proposed to improve the program for middle and high school students. They desired to address specific needs in vocabulary development as related to secondary students through their advocacy and program development.

After a meeting with Dr. Ruby, the "future educators" combined their original ideas and the resources that Dr. Ruby provided and developed a five-day plan focused on the identified word-of-the week and additionally created a lesson plan document for teachers to facilitate the implementation of the materials they developed for teachers.

In lieu of the weekly words in the district WOW! Program, the students identified academic vocabulary that appear with high frequency in the academic disciplines (Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Literature, etc;) as well as on assessments like the SAT and ACT for use in their enhanced approach. IN addition to the word, a definition, a picture, and a sentence, the enhanced WOW! Includes synonyms, antonyms, etymology, prefixes, suffixes, root and based words, and translations in Portuguese, Spanish, and French. The translations reinforce the etymological components of the words and highlights cognates.

In discussing their interest in WOW!, the students shared that they recognize the importance of vocabulary in communication, comprehension, and written language. They also valued the WOW program and expressed that they wished they had a similar program earlier in their education; however, as consumers of the program, future educators, and self-described linguaphiles, they believed they could make the current program better for students in high school and middle school.

A robust question and answer period followed the formal presentation by the students.

Dr. Ruby highlighted the importance of student voice and agency and aligned the students' collaboration, communication, creativity and change-making within their sphere of influence as a living example of what our district Portrait of the Graduate is all about.

Please see attached presentation, sample WOW lesson and supportive lesson plan.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ruby