

MINUTES OF MEETING CURRICULUM COUNCIL

March 27, 2008

Individuals Present

Joe Palmer	Janet Kemp	Carlinda Rex	Charla Kelley
Lisa Nix	Joelle Wall	Bobbette Bell	Dr. Battershell
Terry Arant	Terri Seaton	Sandi Tucker	

1. Optional Flexible Year Plan (OFYP)

Salado ISD has applied to the commissioner of education to implement an Optional Flexible Year Program (OFYP) to reduce the number of instructional days for certain students. The goal of the program is to encourage the academic success of high-risk students.

To qualify for OFYP, a student must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- He/she fails one or more sections of TAKS
- He/she fails a class (yearly average)
- He/she performs below grade level on TPRI
- He/she accrues less than 90% days attendance

If Salado ISD is approved to implement this program, OFYP will be the main focus for the Curriculum Council during the 2008/2009 school year. Parents will be advised of this new program in May, but actual specifications will not be in place until mid-January.

Dr. Battershell recommended that members of the Curriculum Council compile a list of issues to be resolved concerning the implementation of OFYP, such as:

- Will students participate in a full schedule of classes or just those subjects they failed or for which they didn't pass TAKS?
- Will all faculty teach the students or just content-area teachers?
- How will the "90% attendance" requirement be defined?
- Will professional development be offered for teachers who don't participate in OFYP?
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Mr. Palmer suggested that the attendance requirement be clearly defined – will it be limited to students who have missed school due to illness and unexcused absences or will it include extracurricular activity absences, as well? He recommended requiring students to attend the additional eight days at the end of the year regardless of why they were absent for 18 days of the school year. Dr. Battershell said to carefully consider the purpose and intent of OFYP.

2. Rotating Representation on Curriculum Council

A member suggested offering term limits to vertical team leaders to encourage more teachers to participate, more diversity, and better representation for all campuses.

Members suggested using the following criteria to select vertical team leaders:

- All campuses will be represented,
- A variety of genders and ethnicities will be encouraged, and
- The number of years a teacher has been employed at SISD (three-year suggested minimum) will be considered.

In addition, Charla Kelley recommended that a subcommittee of teachers from each campus meet with the vertical team leader from their respective subject area to provide further representation and feedback. Members agreed to three-year term limits beginning in the 2009/2010 school year.

Vertical Team Leaders

(Each leader will rotate off committee in May of the year shown)

- Sandi Tucker, math TAE (2009)
- Carlinda Rex, special programs TAE (2009)
- Bobbette Bell, vocational/arts SHS (2010)
- Terri Seaton, language SIS (2010)
- Terry Arant SIS (2011)
- Charla Kelley SIS (2011)

3. Professional Development

Janet Kemp distributed a brochure listing faculty professional development opportunities for the summer. All certified teachers, coaches, and bus drivers will be required to be trained in CPR, AED, and first aid.

4. Parent Conference Month

October is designated as “parent conference month.” The following open houses will be offered to allow parents to meet their children’s teachers:

- Monday, Oct. 6 – Thomas Arnold Elementary and Salado High School
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Salado Intermediate and Salado Junior High Schools

Not all parents will need individual conference times, however parents may meet with teachers individually if they request a follow-up conference during open house. At-risk students must have structured visits.

The next meeting is 2:30 p.m. April 30 in the SIS Conference Room.

AGENDA

- Spring Reading Probes
- Summer Curriculum Alignment
- New Faculty Orientation
- Back-to-School/Registration
- Parent University