CURRICULUM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Hosted by Lincoln School

Attendance:
Certified Staff – Kaitlin Brown, Jeanie Dennis, Bill Dunn, Courtney Eddleman, Tom Herrmann, Heather Hochstettler, Gena Jones, Scott Lynn, Casie McDowell, Samantha McKee, Jeff Neavor, Don Sturm, Lauri VanDerVoorn, Ben Wellenreiter, Janine Weyland
Students – Ryan Hale, Maria Alferova
Parents – Julia Hischke, Gail Thorson
Board Members – Kelly Scarfe
Administrators – Troy Teater, Faith Waterfield

I. Dr. Teater called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., and welcomed everyone to CAC.

II. Motion by Bill Dunn, second by Heather Hochstettler, to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting. Motion passed.

III. **New Business**

A. **AP Biology – Mr. Lynn**
   ➢ Mr. Lynn informed CAC members that the High School is proposing to offer AP Biology in place of Advanced Biology for the 2016-2017 school year
   ➢ A handout was distributed detailing the current Biology class and the proposed AP Biology class
   ➢ With Mr. Lynn's retirement at the end of 2016-2017, the science department felt it was a good time to implement an AP Biology class
   ➢ With the approval of AP Biology, Mr. Lynn will not teach the class; therefore, allowing a new teacher to take over teaching the class from the start
   ➢ The current course includes a lot of lab work whereas there is less lab work and more lectures and discussions with the proposed AP course
   ➢ If the course is approved, there will be a presentation to purchase an AP textbook
   ➢ Mr. Lynn attended a week long seminar the summer of 2014 on AP Biology and Mrs. Holmgren will attend a seminar this summer
   ➢ The current course is a senior level class, but it is not yet determined if the new course will remain a senior level only
   ➢ It is recommended that students take Biology and Chemistry before taking AP Biology
   ➢ Dr. Teater asked for a recommendation to forward the proposal for AP Biology to the Leadership Team. Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Kelly Scarfe. Motion Passed

B. **AP Computer Science – Mr. Zeller**
   ➢ Mr. Zeller presented a proposal from the High School for an AP Computer Science course, AP Computer Science Principles
   ➢ The rationale behind pursuing a Computer Science course is in looking ahead at the projected job opportunities that will be available
      ✓ 71% of new jobs in the stem field are in computing
      ✓ Projection for 2024 is that over one million jobs in computing will be available

- ✓ Currently only 8% of stem majors in college are taking computer science classes, as opposed to the 71% of jobs available in computer science
- ➢ One out of four high schools actually offer a Computer Science class
- ➢ This course would give students the opportunity to experience a Computer Science class at the high school level as opposed to waiting for college, and the class may encourage an interest at the college level
- ➢ High schools that offer a Computer Science course generally offer an introductory course one year then offer Computer Science A
  - ✓ Computer Science A is more advanced and a little more rigorous than AP Computer Science, and is generally geared more towards students who want to purse Computer Science in college
- ➢ AP Computer Science Principles would fill the role at Morton High School as an introductory course to Computer Science A
- ➢ The High School proposes to offer AP Computer Science Principles for the 2016-2017 school year, and follow-up with Computer Science A if there is continued interest for 2017-2018
- ➢ The class will target juniors and seniors, but would be open to sophomores as well
- ➢ Prerequisite is sophomore standing and a passing grade in Algebra I Standard
- ➢ Class would necessitate a lab with computer access for each student
- ➢ Most Computer Science classes do not have textbooks, as most material can be accessed online
  - ✓ Considering using the textbook *Blown to Bits*, which is online and free
- ➢ This course has an AP exam, as well as a Performance Task Component
- ➢ Computer Science Principles was added to the course listings for students, and there are already enough students for a full section
- ➢ Application for the AP course will be due January 2017, and there are no anticipated problems with approval
- ➢ It is not yet determined if the listing for this course will be Math or IT, but most likely IT
- ➢ Dr. Teater asked for a recommendation to forward the proposal for AP Computer Science to the Leadership Team. Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Mr. Wellenreiter. Motion Passed

C. Teaching Above the Line – Dr. Teater
- ➢ At the November meeting there were group discussions regarding Teaching Above the Line
  - ✓ Dr. Teater listed 7 concepts that continually came up from those discussions, a handout was available in dropbox
- ➢ In the past weeks, the Leadership Team has spent time discussing each topic and completing definitions for each as to what they think is meant as they observe a class
- ➢ CAC members discussed each definition
  - ✓ Dos the definition make sense
  - ✓ Is the definition complete
  - ✓ Are any changes necessary
- ➢ The next step is to consider how to incorporate these actions into District 709 culture
- ➢ Dr. Teater suggested members take the handout and list examples to clarify what each topic means to them in terms of Teaching Above the Line

D. Next Meeting
  - ➢ Wednesday, March 9, 2016 and hosted by Morton Junior High School at the MEAC

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.