

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education
Curriculum and Student Development Committee
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
6:15 PM
Via Zoom**

MEETING MINUTES

Dr. DeSantis called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. via Zoom.

Committee Members present:

Greg DeSantis, Galen Cawley (ex officio) and Cathy Miller
Diane Infantine-Vyce (Chair) joined the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Administration and MPS Staff Present:

Craig Cooke (Superintendent), Gail Dahling-Hench (Assistant Superintendent), Wendy Brighindi (MPS Secretary & Zoom Host), T. J. Salutari, DHHS Principal; Brian Bodner, DHHS Assistant Principal; Melanie Whitcher, DHHS Assistant Principal; Michael Kiefer, Independent Study Teacher, Polson STEAM Teacher and Instructional Technology Specialist, David Tommaso, DHHS Math & Computer Technology Teacher

Also Present: Members of the public

Recorder: Dr. DeSantis

Discussion and Possible Action Items - MPS Graduation Requirements

Gail Dahling-Hench began with a review of Portrait of a Graduate Courses and the new Connecticut graduation requirements beginning in 2023 which in Madison led to a required .5 Independent Study and a required .5 Financial Literacy course. The process to develop the courses was described as well as the independent review of the courses.

.5 Independent Study

Michael Kiefer presented on the .5 Independent Study course. He explained the primary capacity areas for student growth required for the course including Inquiry, Idea Generation, Self-Awareness, Analyzing, Product Creation, and Decision Making. This is a student-led course where students can learn nearly anything but is designed primarily so that students can learn how to learn independently in a modern world. In the phases of the course students propose a project, develop the project, present on the project, and then optionally continue further development of the project.

.5 Financial Literacy

David Tommaso presented on the .5 Financial Literacy course. He explained the primary capacity areas for student growth required for the course including Idea Generation, Self-Awareness, Analyzing, and Decision Making. The areas of focus in the course are developing financial literacy skills, creating self-reliant citizens, identifying how current events in the world will impact finances, and creating conversations at home.

K-8 Financial Literacy Explorations

Gail Dahling-Hench also provided an overview of how financial literacy is included in the curriculum for grades K-8.

Committee discussion ensued on all of these topics.

A motion was made by Cathy Miller to recommend the .5 Independent Study course to the Board of Education, seconded by Diane Infantine-Vyce. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Diane Infantine-Vyce to recommend the .5 Financial Literacy course to the Board of Education, seconded by Cathy Miller. The motion was approved unanimously.

DHHS follow-up SST

Melanie Whitcher provided a follow-up along with Brian Bodner about the work of the Daniel Hand High School Student Support Team (SST), in particular the Saturday Academy effort that the team has led. The goal of this work is to progress monitor all students regarding grades, attendance, and social-emotional support. Students needing support are identified as at risk of not meeting graduation requirements. These students are invited to attend the Saturday Academy. About 3.8% of the Junior class and 7.3% of the Senior class are being offered this Saturday Academy support, along with other supports provided during the school week. The effort is being funded from the Homebound tutoring account, which has a balance due to distance learning during COVID-19 conditions.

There were no comments made by the public at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM, motion by Cathy Miller, seconded by Greg DeSantis.

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