

CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011
2:45-4:30

Attending: Andrea Ishmael, Holly Berry, Carla Gentry, Michelle Johnson, Beth Buckner, Lorie Harkins, Amy Thurman, Tracie Schoenthal, Joyce Hardy, Terry McCutchen, Mark Mathis, Mac Edwards, Patti Seckman

- I. Discussed the formation of a district-wide book study club meeting three times over a three month period to share thoughts and ideas. Mr. Chapman's recommended book is Drive, on understanding motivators in ourselves and others. The group is interested and questioned when would the study group(s) meet?

- II. **CSCOPE- Campus Reports**

Elementary- Andrea Ishmael reported she likes it. The lessons are not teacher friendly, however. Mrs. Seckman explained the Exemplar lessons are examples and teachers have the freedom to create lessons and pull resources as long as the lessons cover what is in the CSCOPE curriculum. Elementary teachers voiced concern on the maintenance of learned concepts since CSCOPE is written to teach content at a deeper level (rigor) and does not spiral concepts throughout the year. Debbie Boyers is a support for teachers and helps them organize lessons, etc. (Side note- Andrea said there is a good math computer program Debbie uses with students- find out what it is?). Michelle Johnson's previous district used CSCOPE so she is a great asset to the elementary. The 3rd grade ELA teachers are also using CSCOPE and find the format and lessons beneficial.

Intermediate- Mr. McCutchen reported his math teachers are 2 days behind the calendar they built at the August training. He attributed this to getting Accelerated Math up and running. Dona Johnson found that fractions and decimals are taught in the reverse of what has been the norm in the past. (Side note-The MSTAR screener was given to all 5th grade students). Intermediate Reading teachers are viewing the CSCOPE curriculum and have used parts of it. He said Dana Craig has used it as a resource for 4th science and Karla Moore has also looked at it in her 5th grade Social Studies class. The Council discussed at this time the importance of staying in your lane and the support Title and Comp. Ed. teachers and regular Ed. teachers pulling parallel lessons at a lower grade level for struggling students for use in tutorials. They would be out of their lane.

Junior High- Lorie Harkins reported her use of CSCOPE as going well. Amy Thurman brought questions from the JH.

1. Concerns on staying on track with the calendar with no days for assessment built into the schedule.
2. Reported lessons requiring more paper and ink than expected.

High School- Mr. Edwards said time to learn and work with the components would be helpful. **Teachers are learning to navigate the site. At first could not see the assessments. That district option is now activated so all teachers can see those assessments which are written.**

- III. Patti explained the programs at PISD and their purposes. CSCOPE, TechPaths, Eduphoria, PD360, and Project Share

Eduphoria

- IV. Viewed Help Button- Eduphoria's Help Button is available for all components no matter which program you are working.

Discussed having one hard copy of all Help Screen shots for Aware in each campus office as a teacher resource. Delivered to each office 10-6-11.

Amy asked if every teacher has rights to be able to create tests. Answer- A large district with multiple campuses of same grade configurations would most likely limit the test creators in order to have uniformity and consistency. Elementary may want to look at limiting theirs, but secondary teachers would create their own tests. **Paradise does not have the item bank to create tests in Eduphoria Aware. However, we have access to all assessments in CSCOPE and can create Quick Keys to use with students and scan into Aware. Amy Thurman can demonstrate. You can still attach the standards to your questions. Question-Without the use of an item bank will we be able to create tests???**

Erien Lee was unable to attend, but gave input prior to the meeting. To ensure teachers' Forethought planners are set-up correctly, she suggested a schedule where teachers could have their classes covered- ex. if they did not have a conference in the A.M. at HS one or two substitutes could cover and then cover at the JH in the afternoon for teachers without an afternoon conference. Amy Thurman could then answer questions and help teachers to ensure they are set-up. The same schedule could work for Intermediate with Beth assisting and elementary has teacher leaders ready to help their teachers get set-up. After all teachers have a week or two of lesson plans then schedule a webinar, if needed, at each campus in a computer lab for Q & A.

A district Eduphoria Forethought lesson plan template was created with the input of several teachers at different campuses.

There will be trainings on Eduphoria Forethought offered at the ESC later this semester. Consider sending campus representatives to these workshops. Will let everyone know when the dates are posted.

Benchmarking- District direction? What are we using? Are teachers to create Eduphoria Aware benchmarks assessing TEKS over units covered? Benchmarks may need to change to reflect the depth and rigor of STAAR. The TAKS released tests given in the fall are now obsolete with the new STAAR assessment, test students over all objectives, even those not yet covered in class. Question- Is it more beneficial for targeting weaknesses to give benchmarks only on covered TEKS?

Many options exist with the Advance Data Forms- Campuses can create monitor groups for Rtl, Title and Comp. Ed. teachers; 504 forms can be created in the primary grades and viewed as the students advance. Forms with student data may be attached to the file (at-risk, etc.), but not edited. However, a created form may be shared with teachers and they have the ability to add input- such as an Rtl form, etc. Personal Graduation Plans (PGPs) may also be created and shared. Eduphoria has Community Forms which were submitted by other districts. A good resource, but ensure they meet all the laws and requirements. Kristin, Johna and Patti attended this workshop.