

Franklin City Schools: Curriculum Council

Meeting: Dec. 9, 2008

Those present: Steve Buerschen, Jo Ann Feltner, Dave Riegel, Jim Martin, Sherry Terrill, Dee Sellers, Michelle Cash, Tom Pecor, Arnol Elam, Dan Darragh, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Jim McFarland, Lisa Garlou, Paula Ruppert

High School Curriculum Proposals: The main agenda item was to review the curriculum proposal prepared by Mr. Riegel. The purposes of the proposed course changes are to increase course rigor and to add variety and additional courses to the curriculum (some courses which had been eliminated during the levy failures had not been added back). Students had made unsolicited comments to Mr. Elam that they wished for greater course variety.

The following courses were proposed:

- Honors Environmental Studies, which would replace a regular Env. Studies course. The course is like an Ecology Course.
- Show Choir, a full-year class that is a jazzy type performance group.
- Chamber Choir, by audition, to ensure that students are serious about being in the class. Auditions are not to keep people out but to ensure those who enroll are really interested.
- AP Calculus Class, to replace the current Honors Calc.
- AP Chemistry, to replace the current Advanced Chemistry course.
- A Film and Literature course, a semester course that examines films for their narrative styles; while the course includes watching films, it is a rigorous course.
- Modern Fantasy Fiction—a semester class that looks at a special branch of literature.
- Creative Writing, a one-semester class being reinstated.
- Intro to Dance, a class that would be a fine arts class taught on the stage, which would introduce students to various dance styles (and be valuable to students in the show choir). Mr. Riegel said that arts classes are popular at FHS.
- College Life Skills, which would replace the ACT prep class, keeping that aspect but expanding to have a broader focus.
- Weight lifting class.

Mr. Riegel explained that these courses can be added without additional staffing because several are replacements, some courses with low enrollment will be dropped, some courses such a Pre-

College Writing will be reduced to a semester, and the ACT prep class will no longer be co-taught by a science and math teacher, but by the Vocational Ed department.

Mr. Riegel discussed adding an internship for seniors, limited to 20 students/semester, which would place them in a workplace several hours/week to give them a taste of the world of work. It will be administered out of the principal's office. He hopes to have that in place for next fall.

He added that he would like for students to have a "concentration" and to make sure they are not taking more than one study hall. Adding courses to the course of study will help this.

Dr. Buerschen mentioned several procedural points required for the courses to become an official part of the curriculum. These include having a Board-approved course of study linked to state content standards for each class on file and working out details of moving the ACT prep class to a College Life Skills class under the Voc Ed dept, due to rules for state funding. This work must be finished in the spring in time for materials to be ordered.

The Council unanimously approved the recommended course changes/additions.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2009, 3 p.m. The group will make its final recommendation about an early start calendar and examine the Junior High/Middle School configuration question.