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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Joel Coleman
Interim Chief Executive Officer

DATE: August 8, 2014

DISCUSSION: LEA Parent Curriculum Review Committee

Background:

The Board has engaged in discussions around local control of curriculum and instructional materials. A Board member has requested the opportunity to have dialogue about creating policy for LEAs to require local parent curriculum and material review committees.

Key Points:

The Instructional Materials Commission reviews materials at the state level for alignment with Utah Core Standards and other issues determined by the Commission.

Anticipated Action:

The Standards and Assessment Committee will have a discussion on the possibility of crafting rule about the involvement of local parent committees in curriculum and materials reviews.

Contact: Sydnee Dickson, Interim Deputy Superintendent, 801-538-7515

Parent Review Committees



A BOARD DISCUSSION

SEPT. 5TH 2014

Schools around the country, including some in Utah, engage in the routine practice of including parents on curriculum review or advisory committees. Many districts have schedules for the purchase and adoption of textbooks that include parent representation and individual schools often determine additional curriculum materials or programs with parent input. However, in a search of district websites, information about this process could not be found. Charter schools, as part of their application to the Charter Board, describe curriculum or methodology that might be used. This decision may or may not involve parents beyond the Board.

The issue for the Utah State Board of Education to discuss is whether or not Board policy should be crafted to ensure schools and districts include parent review committees when making determination about curriculum materials.

*Attached are two samples from school district websites in Great Falls, Montana and Fairbanks, Alaska outlining the district practice and invitation to participate in parent curriculum committees.



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School Board Advisory Committees

- Audit Committee**
- Career & Technical Education Advisory**
- Citizen Budget Review Committee**
- Curriculum Advisory Committee**
- Diversity Advisory Committee**
- Legislative Committee**
- Policy Review Committee**

Contact Information

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Curriculum Advisory Committee

On a six-year schedule, the school district updates classroom curricula – updating one or two subjects each year. It's important to the school board that parents and community members are actively involved in this review of what is taught in our community's classrooms.

This eleven-member committee works closely with the curriculum department to ensure the curriculum and classroom materials stay current. By researching new trends in education, developing curriculum guidelines and approving textbooks, these dedicated community volunteers work to provide students, from kindergarten to high school, the most relevant education possible.

Current Committee Members

- Sean Rice (Committee Chair & Board Member)**
- Kristina Keasler (Student Representative)**
- Dr. Ute Kaden**
- Robert Kinnard**
- Felicia Jackson**
- Earl Peterson**
- Fa' Seymour**
- Dan Wetzel**
- Christina Carlson**
- Octavia Harris**
- Heather Willis**
- John Williams**
- Svetlana Nuss**
- Patricia LaBrie**

Staff Support

Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Kim Gatto, Material Development Specialist

Curriculum Advisory Committee 2013-14 Meeting Dates

Thursday, September 5, 2013 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 3, 2013 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 7, 2013 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

No meeting scheduled in December

****Please note the BCAC meeting time change for 2014 - meetings will 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., starting January 23, 2014**

~~Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (cancelled due to adverse road conditions)~~

Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 6, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 14, 2014 Work Session with the School Board at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**** All meetings are held at the Administrative Center, 520 Fifth Avenue.**

Curriculum Info

- **Art** (adopted 2008)
- **English/Language Arts** (adopted 2005)
- **Health** (adopted 2008)
- **Mathematics** (adopted 2006)
- **Music** (adopted 2010)
- **Physical Education** (adopted 2008)
- **Science** (adopted 2009)
- **Social Studies** (adopted 2007)
- **World Languages** (adopted 2010)



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Curriculum Committee 2013-2014

September 16, 2011 - 7:57am

Purpose:

"Continually monitor and adjust curriculum development, instructional practices, and learning expectations so that they evolve with research and futuristic outcomes to close the achievement gap and meet the broad range of our students' learning needs and aspirations." The purpose of these various district curriculum committees is to ensure that the GFPS Long Range Goal is met while doing so in a legally defensible process as set by school board policies and required by state accreditation standards. For a more complete picture of all the requirements of policy and accreditation law and how GFPS fulfills these requirements, please see [Click Here!](#) [1]

Parents & Community Members!

Are you interested in serving on a GFPS Curriculum Review Committee?

The Great Falls Public School District is seeking parents and community members who are interested in serving on the curriculum review and adoption committees.

Anyone interested in serving on a committee is encouraged to fill-out and submit the application through the link below. All applications or questions regarding the committee and obligations of committee members are to be directed to Chris Olszewski in the GFPS Curriculum Office at 268-6020.

[GFPS Curriculum Committee Application](#) [2]

Chairperson:

Chris M. Olszewski M.Ed, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Meeting Frequency:

Varies by committee. We typically have 3 or 4 different committees running throughout the school year. Most committees try to meet at least three times per semester until the review process and adoption have been completed.

Usual Meeting Place:

Please select committee below

Meeting Dates and Times:

Please select committee below.

Committee Members:

Varies by committee. See agenda & minutes.

2011-2012 Committees:

- [5th Grade U.S. History](#) [3]
- [Middle/High School Industrial Tech](#) [4]
- [Middle/High School Montana & U.S. Government & Civics](#) [5]

- [Middle/High School World Languages](#) [6]
- [K-12 Music](#) [7]
- K-12 Health & P.E.

Other Information:

These content specific committees are responsible for the review, revisions, preview, and recommendations to the superintendent for adoption of any new curriculum, textbooks, resources, and course offerings. The work by these committees also sets the direction for the resulting implementation and assessment committees that will form as a result of the formal adoption by the GFPS Board of Trustees.

 [Printer-friendly version](#) [8]

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[Contact Us](#)

Source URL: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/committee/curriculum-committee-2013-2014>

Links:

- [1] <http://prezi.com/triovn1kcyjz/gfps-curriculum-instruction-assessment-cycle/>
- [2] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/CurriculumCommitteApplication.pdf>
- [3] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/5th Grade - Social Studies Committees 2013-14.pdf>
- [4] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/Industrial Tech Committees 2013-14.pdf>
- [5] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/Social Studies Committees 2013-14.pdf>
- [6] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/World Languages Committees 2013-14.pdf>
- [7] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/Music Committee 2013-14.pdf>
- [8] <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/print/3405>