

# Educational Policy Committee

Agenda Minutes

March 5, 2024

6:30 - 7:45 pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all.

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Members: Gwen Doak, Will Jones, Kyle Fletcher, Debbie Smith, Amanda Caruso

Other Board Members Present:

Staff: Monique Poulin, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Joel Smith and Doug Hodum

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## 1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Doak

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:40

## 2. Previous Committee Minutes [2-6-2024](#)

- a. Any questions?
  - i. None

## 3. Presentations:

### a. [Curriculum Cycle Plan](#) - Poulin

- Assistant Super Poulin reviewed the Curriculum Cycle Plan document and the steps needed to be put in place to align RSU 9 work around a five year curriculum plan. Starting with Science & SS this summer as they are the first curriculum cycle ready per state work. The draft plan shares steps to bring back several similar structures from RSU 9's previous curriculum committee structure. Unfortunately, this district work and process fell by the wayside the last 5-7 years as district admin were pulled in other directions.
- Reviewed the planning for both Horizontal and Vertical structures to improve staff understanding and support for all staff, ultimately supporting all students.
- Lots of good questions about developing learning, curriculum, and the need for classroom and grade level measuring of student growth.
- Systemic alignment is the aspirational piece with this plan.
- The committee approved the plan 5-0!

### b. [SEL](#) - Principal Smith

- i. Have been working as an SEL committee this year to ensure that all staff have exposure to PD and therefore can incorporate aspects into our daily lessons. It does not need to be forced work with students or staff.
  - ii. BARR aligns perfectly with the CASEL wheel.
  - iii. Staff meetings have also included some SEL structures this year.
  - iv. SEL also aligns with some of our evaluation elements.
  - v. The SEL team is working on an SEL playbook (will be a digital platform) that we hope to release in the fall.
  - vi. We have allowed for choice in teacher PD in this area.
  - vii. Our SEL committee has recently expanded to over a dozen people!
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## Educational Policy Committee

- viii. Retention and attendance can be impacted by activities like “Optimistic Closure”.
  - ix. Social-emotional concerns ripple throughout our schools.
- 4. Homeschool Survey - Elkington**
- a. [Draft](#)
    - i. We plan to reach out to our homeschooled families to get input if they are willing to share. There are financial implications to the high number of homeschooled students in our district.
    - ii. There was a suggestion to add a more general response (narrative) to the end of the survey.
    - iii. There are some political aspects to this work which we need to understand.
    - iv. We have a system and are now keeping good track of this information and will continue to dig into the numbers and to the why.
    - v. RSU #9 has made a concerted effort to ensure that families complete their paperwork as required by statute.
    - vi. Homeschool associations are working more closely together in support of each other.
- 5. USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program**
- a. [RUS Grant - 2024 summary.docx](#)
  - b. Review/Discussion
    - i. We would like to collaborate with Winthrop and RSU #44 to write a grant in support of our reducing iPads and interactive video equipment costs. The three tech directors are interested in moving forward. This will cost \$10,000 (split among the three districts) to write the grant. The funds are distributed based on what each district is seeking.
    - ii. There was a related discussion regarding iPads vs. laptops as part of the budget process, with support shared for high schools students having laptops. COsts are the concern and there was a suggestion that we could also offer PCs or Chromebooks instead of the “Mercedes Benz” of laptops by Apple. There was also a question regarding whether or not staff had been surveyed.
  - c. Vote
    - i. Yeas-Gwen Doak, Will Jones, Kyle Fletcher, Debbie Smith, Amanda Caruso-unanimous
    - ii. Nays
- 6. Grants - Elkington/Poulin**
- a. On the horizon
    - i. Two literacy grants are due at the end of March connected to summer programming.
- 7. Grants/Budget - Elkington/Poulin**
- a. ESSER Funds (7 + million)
    - i. Added staffing
      - 1. Paid by grant
  - b. Grants keep coming
    - i. In the last two months
  - c. Every time we apply
    - i. It delays or stops other instructional work

## Educational Policy Committee

- ii. We need a dedicated professional staff member
  - 1. To keep up with possible grants
  - 2. To improve chances of receiving awards
  - 3. To keep local taxes down
  - 4. To allow us to continue strategic planning & instructional improvement work.
- d. Next steps?
  - i. We have a contracted employee who is overseeing the fiscal side of our grants. It is important to continue to support this position, and it will be included as part of the budget.
  - ii. Our hope is to have the strategic plan aligned with systemic approaches to our priorities.
  - iii. As part of the budget process, we hope to use balance forward funds to support some of our PD priorities.

### 8. Policy Work - Elkington

- a. [23-24 Monthly Index - policies assigned by month.docx](#)
- b. Policy Folders
  - i. Review (or no meaningful changes)
    - 1. [BEDH](#) Public Participation At School Board Meetings
      - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - b. Next steps?
        - i. **Note on doc Reviewed, no further action needed.**
  - ii. Basic Updates and Changes
    - 1. [ADA](#) District Goals and Objectives
      - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - b. Next steps?
        - i. **Move forward for one reading.**
    - 2. [ILD](#) Ed Research: Student Submission to Surveys, Analyses or Evaluations
      - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - b. Next steps?
        - i. **Move forward for one reading.**
    - 3. [JICBA](#) Student Debt & Obligations
      - a. Discussion/Questions?
      - b. Next steps?
        - i. **Move forward for one reading.**
- iii. Major Updates
  - 1. **JFABD - MB** Admission of Homeless Students
    - a. [Present Policy](#)
      - i. Policy & procedure are together presently
  - 2. Suggested separation
    - a. [JFABD](#) Admission of Homeless Students
    - b. [JFABD-R](#) Admission of Homeless Students Procedure
    - c. Discussion/Questions?
    - d. Next steps?
      - i. **Move both forward for two readings.**

### 9. Next Mtg. April 2, 2023

# Educational Policy Committee

**10. Adjourned at 8:02**

**11. Future Agenda Items -**

- Presentations:
  - April
    - Literacy/Phonics  
24-25
    - Mystery Science
- Volunteer Hour expectations for school boards
- Grant Updates:
  - Transitions & Goals
    - Community Schools
    - ESEA
    - ESSER
    - Special Ed.
    - BARR
    - Other?