

# MINUTES

## Curriculum Meeting December 4, 2019

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### In Attendance

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B. Fickes, N. Cunningham, Jr., R. Sieber, A. DeYoung, W. Dendler, C. Friedl, M. Brown, W. Brown, F. Williams, E. Williams, R. Lightfoot, Jr., T. Porter, T. Richardson, R. Penman, F. Crayton, E. Crayton, L. Cruz, L. Pietraszewski, V. Rodriguez, A. Whittington, I. Turpin

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### International Baccalaureate CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) presented by R. Sieber and B. Fickes

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IB CAS is still growing and building resources. CAS stands for Creativity, Activity and Service (any activity that the students don't get paid for). It is a two year program for juniors and seniors, and they have to earn 150 hours in the two years. Students have to complete at least two different projects in each category of the seven learning outcomes. The projects require reflections and need to be signed off. Any work done in the classroom doesn't count. One big projects will take about 20 hours of work.

The point is to focus on community, getting involved, creative, emotional and connected globally. The goal is to have well-rounded students. Only full diploma students have to do the extended essay (4,000 words) and CAS. The diploma program starts junior year, and recruit honors sophomores (but are open to everyone willing to commit) and need to work better with the counselors.

Board members requested to see the numbers of enrollment from last year compared to this year. Parent Coordinators will be utilized to inform parents at feeder schools. Testing the students grit will help students be college ready.

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### Report by Student Board Curriculum Committee by V. Rodriguez and B. Fickes

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Student Board is creating a survey to give out to students in Standards Based Learning. The survey will ask students their opinion about the program, since it will be going on in years.

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### Thornridge High Schools' School Improvement Plan presented by E. Williams

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The needs of Thornridge High School were addressed in a team of people from Thornridge and ISBE. Illinois created a template for School Improvement Plans (SIP). Areas of concern that were addressed are SAT Math/Reading, 9<sup>th</sup> grade on track, chronic absenteeism, and graduation rate (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year). There are three student groups that were a concern: black, children with disabilities and low income; Hispanic students were not listed as a group, but had achievement gaps identified among black and Hispanic students in math and ELA. Based on information provided by ECRA, student with disabilities brought down the score in mathematics. The building goal is to have 10% or lower for failure rates. Other groups, including the IB, AP and AVID students, were reviewed, with their cumulative data examined, including GPA, credits, failure and attendance rates. Student engagement is the focus, with 3 indicators identified including rigorous curriculum, engaging instruction and instructional staff utilizes instructional data to adjust strategies and supports in the classroom. The Thoughtful Classroom has been chosen as the learning partner in the school improvement plan. There were four factors identified by the root cause analysis that are student engagement, student mobility, differentiation and chronic absenteeism. SMART goals were developed through lots of work and

collaboration. They were designed and developed with ISBE. Progress monitoring will continue to be done after the SIP is put in place. Approval was given from the Curriculum Committee board members for the Thornridge School Improvement Plan to be presented to the School Board for approval.

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### District 205 College and Career Center and the Pathways to Success presented by J. Arrington

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Dr. Cunningham gave approval eight months ago to create a book to identify college and career pathways to success in District 205. The book was presented as a rough draft. The mission is to enroll, enlist and employ all students of District 205. The hopes are to roll everything out second semester. This has been created to help students get a job, and realize the path they need to take in order to get it. Pathways have been identified in the booklet, including recommendations on what classes to take, what college majors are available, what are career options, dual enrollment opportunities are available during a students' junior and senior year of high school, D205 related courses, activities and electives, and South Suburban College Associates are available. 95% of dual credit offered in District 205 is through South Suburban College, while the other 5% are through Joliet Junior College and Moraine Valley. D205 does have a cooperative agreement with other colleges for students to keep community rates. More information needs to go out to the parents because they don't know about the great things that we have available in our district. Approval for the book was given by the board members, and it will be presented at the next School Board meeting.

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### AP Seminar and Research presented by Andrea DeYoung

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The AP Seminar is embedded through the District Curriculum Committee and the CRT. AP has an IB diploma component and serves District 205 much better as a 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade English program. It is similar to the English program we have now, incorporating Theory of Knowledge and Literature and Reading. It will use the scaffolding model for students intending to become AP or IB students, but allows them to start earlier in the program and segues into it much easier and seamlessly with rigor. College Board was asked for approval. AP Seminar is a capstone, where students can get additional credits through some universities. It also will allow students to practice for the intensity of IB writing. In addition, it will help with SAT writing. Counselors, teachers, English teachers, and Division Leaders were all involved in the process. It will also help fill in the gap for sophomores in the scope of what rigorous courses are available (freshman year-AP Human Geography, and junior year AP/IB courses).

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### Honest Game presented by K. Michelson and T. Richardson

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This company has been around for six months and will provide a roadmap to help student athletes and their academics to get into college. Classes in District 205 don't translate to NCAA curriculum. NCAA has to approve all classes, and classes approved are different school to school. Honest Game will give everyone a clear path for everyone (counselors, students, parents, coaches, etc.) of what courses are needed. This program will also help graduation rates, scholarships awarded, student attendance and proficiency rates. Because it is a pilot program, it would cost \$250 annually per school. Honest Game will go through classes and offer the correct courses. Raw data would be reported four times a year, and would also track attendance. Dr. Cunningham was interested in how it is disseminated in the school. School board members highly support the use of this program.

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### Open Forum

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N/A