



Curriculum Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023 | 3:30-5:00pm | ZOOM

Meeting called by: Roberta Kramer, Assistant Superintendent

Present: Jim Bruce, Luke Conley, Jennifer Hamilton, Roberta Kramer, Mykal McDirmid-Walters, Kelcie Peterson, Amanda Tanner, Kristen Coke-Sutton

Absent: Jill Bickelhaupt, Mimi Dissmore, Cameron Grow, Grace Grow, Juston Pollestad, Garren Shannon, Heather Strader, Tina Zweigle

Guests present: Natalie Dobbins, Tammy Sewell, Michael Riley, Jessica Viergutz-Cavagnetto, Heidi Fluegel, McKenzie Rowley, Elizabeth Robertson

Roberta Kramer calls meeting to order 3:33

Minutes

Lincoln Middle School Social Emotional Learning new curriculum adoption– Lincoln Middle School Social Emotional Learning committee, Lead – Tammy Sewell, Lincoln Middle School Vice-Principal

- Lincoln Middle School SEL committee presented their review of the Character Strong program implemented for the 2022-23 school year and decision for reviewing alternative programs for next year.
- Taking lessons learned from the previous year's piloting, the team took several steps to aid in the success of implementing the Character Strong program. Professional development was provided for four staff members to attend a Character Strong conference as well as full staff onsite training prior to the start of the 2022-23 year. Staff created a scope and sequence for middle school curriculum, and identified those students needing tier 2 instruction.
- Despite the training and structuring efforts, the SEL committee did not meet the needs of staff for implementing the program or improve student comfort in engaging with the material. The Character Strong material does not offer tiered instruction and requires additional time for program development. Students communicated in a survey conducted in December that they were not comfortable with the material. Staff noted material asked students to share personal feelings/experiences on a topic and believe that hindered student engagement. Due to student discomfort with exercises, organization of material and lack of tier instruction, staff did not consider the program effective.
- As a result, the SEL committee field tested two alternative programs this year. *Master Your Mindset* and *Be Good People*.
 - A 6-week field test was conducted. A class within each grade tested either *Master Your Mindset* or *Be Good People*.
 - Each teacher collected results from weekly administrations and provided their feedback on the program they tested.
- Both field tested programs were received positively by staff and students as an improvement over Character Strong. Students communicated that the topics lead to better discussion and were perceived as more applicable than what Character Strong offered. For staff, the material was perceived as more relatable for students. The format allowed students to discuss broader concepts, but were able to personally share if they felt comfortable.
- In comparing the two tested programs, the committee determined *Be Good People* was the preferred program. *Be Good People* had a consistent structure and offered tier 2-3 support; it was relatable to

students and had option to take the topic further with varying activities and worksheets; material that can allow for three years of curriculum; incorporates executive function skills; there is not cost to use the program.

- To implement for next year, Lincoln Middle School SEL team would like to meet in the summer to develop scope and sequence of the *BE Good People* material for 3 years of curriculum.
- Responding to concern expressed regarding staff training, the committee is anticipating training 6-7 staff in the summer that will then train staff in the new year. Additionally, it is believed that the consistency of the program format will help staff implement and students engage.
- The vote to recommend to the School Board the adoption of "Be Good People" for the social emotional curriculum for Lincoln Middle School was presented to the CAC. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15