



21st CENTURY SCHOOLS Instruction Team

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building – Omega Room

Chairperson: Char Sherman

Team Members Present: Steve Becher, Jim Best, Cassandra Bishop, Greg Cooper, Matthew Diroff, April Henley, Dave Ingham, Amy McCusker, Gerri Middaugh, Stephanie Miller, Akeya Murphy, Kimberly Murphy, Val Orr, Sally Perkins, Paul Salah, Kelly Salter, Cindy Schofield, Joan Sedik, Nancy Strachan, Amy Thorner, and Susan Webb.

MINUTES

The chairperson briefly reviewed the progress made by the other teams and the charges of the Instruction Team. The goal of the meeting was to reach consensus and summarize our recommendations for the November 17 meeting of the entire 21st Century Committee.

The Instruction Team reached consensus on the following items:

- The committee recommends the K-4; 5-6; 7-8; and 9-12 grade configurations.
- At the K-4 level, the committee recommends All Day Kindergarten in all ten of the K-4 buildings that will be recommended by the Enrollment Committee. The committee realizes that continued implementation of All Day Kindergarten is an economic factor and will depend on the funding from the State of Michigan.
- At the 5-6 level, the committee recommends an elementary focused instructional program with self-contained classrooms. The same flexibility for teacher teaming will exist that is currently practiced in some of our upper elementary grades. The elementary day will include recess.
- At the 5-6 level, the students will receive specials. The committee recommends that World Languages and Instrumental Music as well as Vocal Music be included in the specials at both the 5th and 6th grade.
- The 5-6 level will include educational programming for students who are identified as Gifted/Talented through our current district identification process. The Instruction Department will seek further input from the District Gifted/Talented parent committee as to the nature of this educational programming.

- At the 7-8 level, the committee recommends that World Languages be continued as full year classes. Students should be required to take at least one year at the 7-8 level and students should be allowed to take two full years in order to fulfill their Michigan Merit Curriculum high school credit requirements (2 World Language credits beginning with next year's 7th grade class).
- Advanced classes should be developed beginning at the 7-8 level for students who are gifted in particular academic areas. These classes would use the district adopted curriculum but would be faster paced and use higher level thinking skills.