

Curriculum Committee

October 10, 2022 – 6:00

Present: Mrs. Britni Burlingham, Mrs. Nicole Lee, Mrs. Tara Pound, Dr. Andy Pushchak, Mrs. Lea Hetherington, Mr. Stephen Morvay, Mr. Jeremy Bloeser

Also Present were Mr. Ken Berlin, Mrs. Rebecca Kelley

Absent: Mrs. Amanda Farrell, Mr. Shawn Matson

Dr. Pushchak called the committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Berlin introduced Mr. Miller, Seneca HS Principal, Rob Englert, Assistant Principal, Tim Malinowski, Seneca Guidance Counselor, and Liz Diehl, Seneca Guidance Counselor, to present information regarding Class Rank. Mr. Miller began with a review of the initial transition to the Latin system which began in 2016. The initial purpose of this transition was to eventually eliminate the publishing of class rank and the formal recognition of valedictorian and salutatorian. Misconceptions regarding class rank and scholarships were addressed, as well as the negative impact class rank currently has on student mental health and course scheduling. In their view for class rank, students often forego choosing courses in their area of personal or career interest for courses that are less rigorous, for a guaranteed A, or more rigorous, for the weighted component. Scenarios were presented to illustrate several variables that impact class rank, first of which is course availability. Information regarding college admission was also presented, indicating that GPA and course selection are among the top factors for acceptance among first-time freshmen. Survey results were presented; students, teachers and parents expressing their sentiments that overall, class rank is not an accurate measure of student performance. Mr. Miller stated that the current thresholds for the Latin system will be revised to make attaining the highest level of Summa Cum Laude more competitive. Switching from the current Grade Percent Average (100-point scale) to the preferred collegiate Grade Point Average (4.0 scale) was also recommended. Dr. Pushchak asked about next steps and a transition timeline. Mr. Miller recommended that the transition begin next year with the current freshman and sophomore classes. Mr. Berlin said the next step is for the administration team to put a plan together to make the transition and present a first reading of a revised Policies 214 and 124 at the November Board meeting. Several questions from the School Board were addressed prior to the conclusion of the committee meeting at 6:59 pm.