**Curriculum Committee Minutes**

Galileo School for Gifted Learning

May 9, 2019

Members--Present: Michele Gill-chair, Michelle Nunez, Nicole Mezak, Amanda Bajgier, Melissa Roy, Crystal Varnadoe; Betsy Register, Clary Kirts

Ex officio: Alysia Murray, Nicole Bronga, Ava Colley (all absent)

Note: Yellow highlights are actionable TO DO items requiring follow up.

1. Approve minutes from January 24, 2019
2. Informational Items
   * Kudos to Mrs. Bronga and her Pre-Vet program on obtaining the chicken coop and her high student engagement in this program!
3. Old Business
   * Creative Productivity: Parent request for middle school students to be able to opt out of CP and taken an FLVS class. Or increase the quality of CP classes.

* *Discussed whether CP should always have real world application. Next year, need to focus on Type 2/3 extension of CP for next year; ex. Math focus CP could be engineering based or theoretical proofs, even, for our students who love learning mathematics.*
* *CP should allow students to go in depth for something that’s interest based. Galileo should provide mentors and models to begin a CP class. We decided to start a Google doc to share parameter ideas; middle school teachers were able to “sell” their CP at an assembly this year-creates exposure to new ideas*
  + **Exhibitions**: Incorporating an event/performance/game each year (or every other year) where students used what they have learned. May want to include contests, like SECME. Discuss teacher proposals for this initiative.
* *Science is starting something that could be used for this*

*-Need to make a list of current exhibitions that Galileo grade levels are already doing.*

* + Galileo PEAKS Update
* *Mrs. Bajgier and Ms. Hicks will be the teachers for this; starting with collaborative community based project; current students are passionate about the environment, so will start there; student input included*
  + Literacy skills: Being a Reader and Making Meaning training (Kirts)
    - *Discussed the new school-wide training. Committee agrees that all teachers need to implement this during the coming year. They will still have time do extended projects and include their unique lessons. The whole school, though, needs to be committed to improving literacy through fidelity to the Making Meaning and Being a Reader programs.*
  + BOOK STUDY: Ethic of Excellence. Discuss chapters 1-2
* *Discussed how to improve student work quality and their motivation to revise and improve their work. Perhaps we could have 1 or 2 projects that students start at the beginning of the year and work on it throughout; must be very well planned; teachers need parameters to start; could cover a few standards deeply, others more broadly*
* *Recommended that we create a culture of excellence at Galileo School. We can bring in parents/experts to evaluate students’ work. Increase peer evaluations. Allow students to use a portfolio system for their work, choosing what gets evaluated. Discussed standards-based curriculum.* 
  + Update on Teacher Inquiry Projects: teacher interest?
* *4th-8th teachers going to pilot standards based grading for math*

1. New Business
   * **Survey results**

* *Sstudent assembly is too loud; we brainstormed some suggested fixes*
* *Need to provide increased rigor/excellence in student work and assignments, with deeper inquiry-based lessons. Homework should be useful and minimal, no busy work. Discussed the problem with the high school advanced classes some middle schoolers are taking which have increased homework requirements.*
* *To address some of the survey issues, the Committee recommended that An Ethic of Excellence be given to all teachers at the end of the year for their summer reading and to reflect on for the coming year. Teachers will be asked to come up with one thing they will change in their classroom based on the book.* 
  + **Progressive Education discussion**
    - EL standards:[**https://eleducation.org/who-we-are/our-approach**](https://eleducation.org/who-we-are/our-approach)
    - “Why” statements
    - No homework/No grades?
      1. *Discussed that Galileo is progressive in vision but sometimes not in practice in every classroom, due to some resistance by some teachers at times. However, the students are treated kindly here. Galileo is an innovative school. Kindness are innovation are the starting point but they are not enough.*
      2. *We agreed to keep taking baby steps towards our progressive vision.*
  + **FLVS students:** Students need a place to sit while taking the class (parent request)
* *Students have multiple options for their FLVS classes; they can use headphones, sit in the hall, stay in classroom, or go sit in front office*
  + **Computer programming/engineering:** Suggestion to hire teacher to oversee tech/engineering instruction. Teach middle school students programming with raspberry pi. Consider entering contests like SECME.
* *Our new 5th grade teacher is tech focused, and we hope he will lead these initiatives.*
* *Discussed adding a possible shop/mechanics elective and/or creating a maker space area for shop-type activities. Mrs. Nunez is trying to secure funding to build such a space on our current campus.*

1. Other Business?
   * *None*
2. Next meeting: August 2019