Wyomissing Area School District

Board of School Directors Meeting

January 24, 2022

AGENDA

- Review of Credit Reduction Proposal

- Review of Program of Studies Revisions

Reduction of Graduation Credit Requirements – The Why

- The responsibility of the K-12 school system goes beyond preparing students to be proficient academically. We need to create a system that benefits all of our students, preparing them for life after high school.

- This reduction adds flexibility to students' schedules so they are more free to pursue areas of interest. These options include:

  - Courses on our campus or in collaboration with local school districts

  - Internships

  - Employment opportunities

  - College credit-bearing courses

  - Research/authentic learning opportunities

- Recognizes the challenges of transient students who have been in systems with less credit requirements in their transition to WASD.

Reduction of Graduation Credit Requirements – The Why

- Build on current partnerships with BCTC and Morgan Corporation
  - New Diversified Occupations Program

- Act 158 Requirements beginning with Class of 2023

- Provides opportunities for WASD teachers to expand student-desired elective courses:
  - PE – Student input into course development
  - New courses will include:
    - Mindfulness and Yoga Practices (to meet increased mental health needs)
    - Team Games
    - Backyard/Recreation Games
    - Net Games

Process of Project- How We Got Here

- 2020 – 2021 – Discussions related to Dual Enrollment with local universities

- Summer/Fall 2021 – WASD District Administration and High School Administration Brainstorming Discussions

- October 2021 – Met with local school district who has recently undergone similar process

- October 2021 – WASD Administrative Planning

- November 2021 – Presentation during WASD Curriculum Committee meeting

- December 2021 – Meeting with JSHS Department Chairs to discuss Credit Reduction options and Dual Enrollment opportunities

- January 2022 – Collaboration with PE Department to create options that promote life-long fitness and are of high-interest to students

Comparison of Graduation Credits Requirements

Content Areas	State Credit Requirement	Current WASD Credit Requirement	Administrative Recommendation WASD Credit Requirement
English	4	4	4
Math	3	3	3
Social Studies	3	4	3
Science	3	3	3
Arts/Humanities	2	*Included in Electives	2
H/PE	1	2.25	1.25 (1.0 PE and .25 Health)
Electives	5	9.5	6
FCS/Financial Literacy		.25	.25
Computer Tech.		.50	.50
TOTAL	21	26.5	23

Current Graduation Credit Requirements in High-Performing School Districts

School District	Graduation Credit Requirement
Downingtown Area SD	24 (includes .34 credit for a mandated graduation project)
Great Valley SD	24
Lower Merion SD	21
North Penn SD	23
Radnor SD	22.5
Tredyffrin/Easttown SD	24
West Chester Area SD	23.8
Wilson SD	21

Increased Partnerships with Local Industry, Universities and School Districts

- Focus on continued collaboration with local schools to increase the variety of academic opportunities for students
  - JROTC
  - Mandarin Chinese
  - BCTC Diversified Occupations Program

- On-Campus Academic Offerings at Local Colleges
  - Dual Enrollment through Albright College's SRI Program
  - Early Admissions Program through RACC

Program of Studies Revisions

- World Language

  – Added Mandarin Chinese offering

- Science

  – Developed New Course – Honors Advanced Engineering

- English

  – Renamed 8th grade writing courses and revised course descriptions

- Computer Science

  – Developed New course Honors STEM Robotics III - Renamed Introduction to Engineering course to Essentials of Engineering

- Art

  – Eliminated Public Art Workshop

Timeline of Next Steps

January 10, 2022 – Presentation at Board Committee Meeting

January 24, 2022 – Possible Board approval

Share and review changes with students, staff and parents

February 2022 – Begin course registration process for HS students

Spring 2022 – Use student selections to create student/staff schedules

August 2022 – New graduation requirements are in place