

Social Studies Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2016

Attendees

Fife, Goodspeed, Jerome, Mager, Postema, Volk, Wetmore

Agenda

- Discuss pacing guides and how they have been utilized

Meeting

A. Pacing Guides

1. How did you utilize your Pacing Guides within your classrooms?
 - We used it after-the-fact to evaluate our progress compared to the expected progress.
2. How far did you get through your Pacing Guide? Did you reach all of your goals?
 - Got through material, but did not take time to include enrichment material. It was felt that this was due to feeling constrained to meet the pacing guide.
 - Some felt partially successful.
3. Did you have to make any adjustments to your Pacing Guide within the first semester? If yes, why?
 - No. We were not aware that we could. Knowing that, we feel that we will in the future.
4. Did you have any positive or negative feedback from parents regarding the Pacing Guides?
 - No. Parents were not aware of the pacing guide.
 - One of Mrs. Volk's pacing guides is not on the school website. She believes the economics pacing guide is missing.
5. What skill gaps are you noticing with your students?
 - They have difficulty expressing themselves in writing.
6. Are these gaps consistent throughout all grade levels?
 - Yes
7. If yes, what types of interventions are being utilized to attempt to close the gaps?
 - Working across subject to focus on areas that are lacking.
8. Looking at your curriculum maps, what types of "common language" is being formed throughout the department?
 - We would like to have a common language for the documents being discussed. Are they pacing guides, curriculum maps, or anchor standards?

- After sharing some key vocabulary, it was determined that vocabulary being used is similar.
- 9. How important is it to have "common language" from grade level to grade level?
 - Having a common language should allow following grades to focus on learning new concepts. We find that this is not necessarily the case. Students are not carrying over the language from one year to the next. Instead, class time is being spent to review key terms that were "learned" previously. How to solve this would be a good topic for future discussions.

B. New Social Studies Standards

- The group discussed the possibility of new standards and determined that when they are put in place at the state level, our adoption should take place gradually.

Next Meeting

March 09, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.