



# Curriculum Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2024 | 3:30-4:00pm | ZOOM

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**Meeting called by:** Roberta Kramer, Assistant Superintendent

**Present:** Jill Bickelhaupt, Kristen Coke-Sutton, Luke Conley Cameron Grow, Grace Grow, Jennifer Hamilton, Roberta Kramer, Allison, Munch-Rotollo, Juston Pollestad, Garren Shannon, Heather Strader, Amanda Tanner

**Absent:** Jim Bruce, , Kykal McDirmid-Walters, Kelcie Peterson

Roberta Kramer calls meeting to order 3:30

## Minutes

This Curriculum Advisory Council meeting is called to review three course proposals for addition to the Lincoln Middle School CTE course offerings. Two courses proposed are requested to be offered beginning the 2024-2025 school year and a third to be offered the following year.

The three courses to be reviewed are,

- Automation and Robotics
- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
- Digital Design

**Presenter:** Jill Bickelhaupt, Pullman High School CTE Director

The two courses proposed to begin in the 2024-2025 year are developed from existing courses. These are Computer Science for Innovators and Makers and Automation and Robotics. All course are presented as CTE elective for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Computer Science for Innovators and Makers

- This course is proposed to replace coding and electronics and will adopt the Project Lead the Way curriculum. It would provide a curriculum for coding and electronics that better aligns with to the Digital Electronics and Computer Programming courses offered at the high school. Jill Bickelhaupt continued that this course would offer a tangible alignment to the engineering career pathway at the high school and potential partnership with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.
- Addressing costs for the course, Lincoln Middle School already has much of the material from the course this will be replacing. Additionally, there is a plan to apply for a Verizon grant that could provide \$15,000 over 2 years for additional support items.

### Automation and Robotics

- This course is proposed to replace gateway to technology and, similarly to the proposed computer science course, will adopt the Project Lead the Way curriculum. This new course will also better align with CTE programs at the high school.

The CTE Director explains the there is an effort to grow the engineering program at the high school. Building up the middle school by the addition of these courses can provide a more robust pathway for students. The proposal for these two courses adds a curriculum and a few more additional materials, but of the material is already available at the classroom.

## Digital Design

- This is a new course and will be a new elective offering for students.
- This course is different from the other two proposed in that it will not use a Project Lead the Way curriculum, but be teacher-created. It integrates the arts and technology that could lead students to engineering, digital media and computer science. Students may also enjoy an emphasis on arts and marketing. The CTE Director contends this course integrates the arts and technology and can serve as a foundation course tying into multiple pathways at the high school and offers the potential to build new pathways at the high school.
- The CTE director notes that Perkins indicators of non-traditional enrollment have been low in engineering at the middle school. This was a course requested by students traditionally underrepresented and has potential to reach all students.
- Regarding costs, the software is currently free. Because the course does not use a Project Lead the Way curriculum, they will not be able to apply for a Verizon grant.

## Questions from the Council

- The council addressed that Project Lead the Way curriculum requires instructors to be trained. Has been established that instructors can participate in the training? CTE Director reported they are working on a strategy for training.
- The Digital Design course could be a draw for students transitionally enrolled in art courses. Would enrollment in art courses be robust to handle Digital Design taking those students? The CTE Director believes it will not be a problem.
- A council member inquired about what is meant by the term “nontraditional”. It was explained that for all CTE nationally, there is a designated nontrade gender for each course. As an example, female is identified as nontraditional in welding. She does not know who the decision is made, but perhaps it is based on employment statistics. A council member expressed support of a selection of courses and eliminating barriers for participation, but offers the term “underrepresented” to be considered.
- A council member shared their observations of the development of the digital design program at Washington State University and sees there are multiple potential applications of design and encourages the course to be broad. The CTE Director likes how the design course can go towards multiple pathways at the high school.
- It was asked if these courses would have an impact on technical operations. For example, robotics will have applications with the hardware. Will there be a need for wireless programming and Bluetooth? There is concern about having the hardware base. The CTE Director said they will review, and that Project Lead the Way is good at providing a list of what is needed for the curriculum. She will begin looking at the requirements.
- The council said it is necessary to create a 5-year plan for these courses. The way CTE electives are structured, some students do not have access to these electives and there is an issue of equity that does need to be addressed. Further, special education and multilingual students have a designated course and addressing obstacles to CTE participation is needed. The middle school principal acknowledges this concern and is working to have this addressed. The CTE Director would like to talk with colleagues in Spokane to discuss how course scheduling is handled at their middle schools.

***Vote to advance the adoption of the three courses to the Pullman School Board for approval Automation and Robotics and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers added to the 2024-25 middle school course offerings and Digital Design added to course offerings after the 2024-25 school year. All votes in favor.***

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM