Major Change Proposals

Kathy Ellison presented five Major Change Proposals for discussion. These proposals included:
1. A request for the final stage of the secondary mathematics program realignment. This creates a new course option of AP Calculus AB.
2. A request for a second scheduling option for Advanced Biology. A building could select to schedule the course one hour over two years or two hours over one year.
3. A request to consider the implementation of a New Tech Program. A request for developing the new project based units needed for the New Tech Program.
4. A request to approve the expansion of the International Baccalaureate program. Approval will allow the continued move toward implementation of the Primary Years Program. The committee discussed the proposals and suggested some modifications. The proposals will now be reviewed and prioritized by the Major Change Proposal Committee. Those proposals meeting the standard of reasonable and necessary will be brought forward for consideration to the full Board on Monday, October 22.

The committee was reminded that implementation of any proposal is dependent on the availability of funds.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

At 2:05, the committee members moved to Sarah Pancost’s Theory of Knowledge sixth hour class. (There are two sections this year.) Everyone enjoyed listening to the class discussion of the limitations of surveys due to the points of view of the participants and of those reflecting on the results. Near the end of the class, students asked questions of the policy makers for the district. Members John Kaminski, Ken Mault and Lynn Baker did a wonderful job explaining if each was left-brained or right-brained and how that impacts policy making. The students also wanted to know why MPS has the requirement for four years of mathematics to graduate. Board members explained that this is a state requirement.

An exciting and uplifting time was had by all!

The committee returned to the conference room and discussed the program successes and challenges with Ms. Pancost. She emphasized the integral nature of the student profile and its huge impact on students and their learning. This year students began the year using the Primary Years profile version, moved to the Middle Years version and now are guided by the high school version. She reflected that she sees student growth in taking ownership of individual learning, in critical thinking skills, in compassion and caring for others and in communication.

Ms. Pancost has done an impressive job leading students in their learning. She reported, “Teaching this class has changed how I teach all my other classes. It is all about engagement and ownership of learning.” The committee expressed their appreciation for her efforts and accomplishments.

Next CaSS meeting: November 19, 1:30-3:00
Juvenile Care Center