

District Proposal

September 11, 2008

9:35pm

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
BELLEVUE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
and the
BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT
regarding
CURRICULUM

Curriculum Development and Delivery

The District and Association share a mutual interest in obtaining, developing, and delivering high quality curriculum in all subject areas. The expertise, insight, and creativity of the teacher are essential to the development and delivery of curriculum that meets the diverse needs of students. The parties share an interest in ensuring that course goals, unit goals, objectives, lessons, assessments, and materials are developed in a collaborative manner to continually improve and maintain the integrity of a common, articulated curriculum.

Professional Judgment

Teachers will exercise professional judgment in determining when and how to modify, supplement, or replace lessons to meet the needs of students and to achieve unit and lesson objectives. Teachers are encouraged to share modifications, supplementations, and replacement lessons with colleagues in an ongoing effort to improve the curriculum.

If a teacher believes a series of lessons, a substantial part of a unit, or a common assessment will not meet the needs of her/his students and must be revised or replaced, she/he will notify the curriculum department and initiate the Curriculum Improvement Process. Until this process has produced an outcome in which most affected staff are confident, staff will not replace units and/or common assessments, and will maintain the integrity of the existing common, articulated curriculum.

The development and delivery of curriculum is a collaborative process that includes teachers, curriculum developers, technology curriculum coaches, and administrators who will interact on a regular and ongoing basis to refine and improve curriculum. Teachers and/or curriculum department staff may convene teams for the purpose of collaboratively developing proposed revisions and/or additions to the curriculum. Those convening a team will invite all staff to participate who are thought to be affected by the curriculum question(s) under consideration. The product of a team's efforts to develop and/or revise any aspect of the curriculum, e.g., objectives, assessments, etc. will, in turn, be shared with affected staff for the purpose of peer review. When this product is shared, staff will be asked to suggest revisions and/or additions. Once the team has provided sufficient opportunity for this input, the team will incorporate this input as determined to be appropriate and disseminate the resulting outcome to affected staff, who will be asked to indicate confidence or no confidence in going forward with the outcome in question. In the event most staff express confidence in going forward, the outcome will be included in the curriculum. Those who expressed a lack of confidence will be encouraged to state a dissenting opinion.

The parties agree to convene a BEA-BSD committee to implement the collaborative process describe above and to continually refine this process as necessary.