

Aledo-Westmer Committee of Ten
5-8th Grade Sub-Group of the Curriculum Sub-committee
Minutes from March 26, 2008

COT Members Present: Vic Johnson, Kristin Wurzburger, Eric Coulter

Also Present were teachers representing both school districts from all grades 5-8th and all of the core disciplines (Math, English, Social Studies, and Science).

* Discussion began with clarifying that although the final recommendations have not been made regarding where grades 5-8th would be housed, one possibility is that 5/6th would be housed together and 7/8th together at another site. We discussed how we might adjust the students to this new arrangement (i.e. 5th out of elem environment and housed with 6th), at what level to start time management skills.

* We then discussed how we could make full use of some of the additional opportunities at the facility in Joy for 7/8th grades – greenhouse, several gyms, woodworking and ag equipment, etc.

* We discussed electives at both junior highs as they currently are and the opportunity with the combined student enrollment to offer a wider range of electives at the 7-8th grade levels as well as perhaps band at the 5/6th grade levels.

* We discussed concerns that there may not be a room large enough to hold the current Junior High Band/Music program in Joy.

* The importance of having a full-time certified librarian at each facility and an adequate number of books was addressed.

* We discussed the importance of continuing to offer Accelerated Reader programs and the logistics of housing enough books at each facility at multiple reading levels to cover our students' needs.

* Many suggestions were made for additional course offerings such as foreign language and advanced math for 7-8th graders if desired.

* We discussed what might be the best grade level to begin teaching keyboarding skills and study skills.

* We reviewed the current textbooks used and discussed when to transition textbook series (K-5, then change 6-8th or use K-8 same series).

* We discussed where Health could be taught at 7th grade level (i.e. as part of the PE curriculum or Science curriculum).

* We felt that we were able to make some solid recommendations and no further meetings of our sub-group are needed at this time, but that the teachers will need to be given opportunities to come together as a department when consolidated.

Submitted by: Kristin Wurzburger,
Committee of Ten Curriculum Sub-committee

