

# ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Title of Group Meeting:

## Board of Education Americanism/Education Evaluation Committee

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Date: 10/01/13

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:46 p.m.

Facilitator: Shanon Willmott

Recorder: Shanon Willmott

Group Members Invited: Shanon Willmott, Luanne Sundberg, Mike Dwyer, Andrew Farber, David Fritson

Group Members Present: Shanon Willmott, Luanne Sundberg, Mike Dwyer, Andrew Farber

### Agenda:

- 1) Discussion regarding compliance with Nebraska code 79-724 (Americanism handout)
  - a. The committee read the statute to check for compliance. A copy of this statute is attached to this email. Principal Andrew Farber answered questions regarding how the Social Studies curriculum complies with the statute. The breakdown is as follows:
    - 5-6 grade - Social studies
      - Basic units in government / constitution
    - 8th grade - American History
      - US Constitution / Foundation of the country
      - Humanities
      - Basic Civil Liberties
    - Grades 9-12 - American History
      - Advanced US history (College Credit)
      - Business law
      - US Government
      - Junior English
      - World History
      - Journalism
      - Speech
      - Freshman English
  - b. The statute stipulates that the Americanism committee “examine, inspect, and approve all textbooks used in the teaching of American history and civil government in the school.” The committee’s recommendation is that we continue compliance with this stipulation for social studies, but also that the committee reviews the recommendations for new textbooks in all content areas, especially now with the language arts curriculum being updated.
- 2) Special Education update
  - a. Mr. Farber walked the committee members through the 1% rule regarding alternate assessments for state testing. Alternate assessments can be used for students who have significant cognitive disabilities. Arlington Public Schools has 3 students who qualify as proficient for AYP in Math and Reading.

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### **3) Dual Credit**

- a. Mr. Farber provided paperwork to explain the Dual Credit opportunity for Nebraska Approved high schools. In order to offer a dual credit course, a teacher must have a Master's degree in the field in which they teach. There are currently 5 teachers on staff who are qualified to teach dual credit courses.

### **4) Curriculum alignment**

- a. The school is working with Shari Person-Pandle, through the ESU, on curriculum alignment for both Health and Language Arts.
  - a. Health- Plans are to work with Shari and staff (PE, FCS, some Science) to develop a Health curriculum for grades 3-10.
  - b. Language Arts- In preparation for textbook adoption in 2014-2015, the school is working with Shari on LA curriculum updates/development.
  - c. As mentioned above, the curriculum committee's recommendation is that the committee examine and review textbooks recommended by the administration and faculty so that the committee may make an informed recommendation to the full board for approval. (as many districts' boards do).