

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
November 4, 2010

Minutes

Please note: minutes have not been approved by the committee

Members in attendance: Julie Altman, Joseph Abbatiello, Diane Crocco, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, Angela McNabola, Charles Britton, Kathleen Fuller-Cutler, Mary Raiola, Sheila Wycinowski

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by chairperson, Julie Altman.

Approval of Minutes – October 28, 2010

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of October 28, 2010. Tom Hurley made motion to approve the minutes. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

New Courses for 2011-2012

AP English Language & Composition

Dr. Britton requested a course modification to expand AP English Language and Composition from a half-year course to a full-year course. He noted this would allow students more time to complete the course in light of the eight-period day. No new staffing is needed and no new text. Tom Hurley made motion to approve the minutes. Rita Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Modern Poetry

Dr. Britton noted he would like to expand the honors course designation as an elective course. Students could contract for either honors, level one, or level two credit. This course would give access to most students and would be in line with new NEASC guidelines. There are no associated costs for this course. Tom Hurley made motion to approve the minutes. Rita Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Health Promotion

Joy Shane, excellent health educator, is proposing a semester elective course open to students in grades 10-12 in health education. This class will focus on allowing students to examine elements of good health and factors that affect their well-being and communicate their new learning with the community at large. Students will learn about the power of the media and will explore media literacy. Discussions centered around rigor and community participation. Kathy Fuller-Cutler noted she would welcome the high school students to her school to communicate positive healthy messages. Board members expressed an interest in seeing some examples of student work in the future. Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the course as a pilot. Rita Gedansky seconded the motion the motion did not carry with a vote of five opposed and one in favor. Rita Gedansky then made a motion to approve the course, Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 1

Motion passed

New Texts for 2011-2012

Life of Pi

Dr. Britton noted the English department would like to propose a new text, *Life of Pi*. The cost of the text would be \$10.55 and it would be used in grade 12 in World Literature. The story published in 2001 would add a contemporary piece and addresses a variety of themes in world cultures, religious and geographical location. One class set would be purchased. Angela McNabola made a motion to approve the text, Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Shipwreck of the Bottom of the World

Dr. Britton noted the English department would like to propose a new text, *Shipwreck of the Bottom of the World*. The text would be for English III, level 3. The cost would be \$186.40 to purchase a class set. Mrs. Wycinowski noted the text would add an additional non-fiction text. Tom Hurley made motion to approve the minutes. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Prentice Hall World History

Mrs. Wycinowski presented the proposed 9th grade World History text. The text is aligned to the state and national standards. The text also has noted hyperlinks to further student learning. The text fosters literacy and possesses noted “big ideas” and learning strategies. The text and online version will be ordered as part of the purchased package. Teacher resources will be included. Ms. Hass, Department Head for Social Studies had indicated at the Steering Committee Meeting the books will be phased in beginning in school year 2010-2011. Seventy five books will be purchased this year. The text is ten years old and the rebinding process has compromised the readability of the text. Much discussion ensued with regard to the online version vs. text purchases and futuristic purchase projections with regard to online subscriptions.

Ms. McNabola made a motion to accept the proposed text and forward it to the Board and Mrs. Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5
Vote opposed: 1
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Geometry

The book *Geometry* by Prentice Hall aligns with the new Geometry Level 3 curriculum. The text has numerous visualizations to support student learning. *Geometry* has a greater focus on literacy and problem-solving supporting the district initiatives. The text aligned with state and national standards including the *Common Core Standards*. Many formative assessments voted in the text will support student learning.

There is an online version with a six year access for students and a homework online version. Tom Hurley made the motion to approve the Geometry text and Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The text will be presented to the Board of Education.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Julie Altman made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. and Rita Gedansky seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 6
Vote opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/ckl