

Curriculum Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2010, 5:30 p.m.
District Office Presentation room

Minutes

Members in attendance: Julie Altman, Diane Crocco, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, Angela McNabola, Charles Britton, Mary Raiola, Sheila Wycinowski

Guests: Jonathan Furst

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

Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2010

The first order of business was the approval of minutes. Tom Hurley made a motion to accept the minutes. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

New Courses for 2011-2012

Set Design & Construction

Mr. Furst introduced the Applied Education course. The elective is open to all students grades 10-12 and will be a half-year course. Students will learn the technical aspects of theater design including safety, tool usage, set design, and construction. All necessary supplies will come from the theater budget. Student performance assessment tasks will be related to fine and performing arts performances. Discussion centered around course rigor and the Curriculum Committee requested to see samples of student work at some point next year. Angela McNabola made a motion to approve, Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Robotics

Mr. Charles Britton discussed the proposed Robotics course. The course is an outgrowth of our STEM initiative. It will follow and expand on the eighth grade life arts course. The course will be open to students in grades 10-12 and will be a half-year elective. The kits and programming will be more sophisticated. Geometry will be a pre-requisite for the course. The course will need robotic kits and sensors for a total cost of \$8,549.82. The total reflects one section per semester for allocations. No new personnel is needed. Additionally, dollars will be needed in subsequent years for repair parts and supplies. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Mr. Jonathan Furst introduced new courses to energize music offerings for students based on student requests. He noted the following:

Introduction to Dance

Mr. Furst noted the course would be taught by a certified dance teacher at Amity. It will be a one semester elective course open to all students grades 10-12. The course will replace choreography, will place emphasis on techniques, style, and choreography and will focus on the major forms of western dance. Questions centered around ECA. Mr. Furst noted this is an introductory course and most students go to ECA for advanced dance. Rita Gedansky made a motion to approve, Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Percussion Ensemble

There is a need for students in percussion, especially the drummers, to develop their full potential. The course will be rigorous and students will participate in state level competitions. The new course will only run if there is sufficient enrollment. The elective course will be offered to students in grades 9-12. No new staffing or supplies are needed for the class. Diane Crocco made a motion to approve. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Acting for Film

Mr. Furst and Mr. Kennedy will co-teach the course. There will be emphasis on critical viewing and film history. Mr. Furst noted he has previous experience in directing. There will be no new staffing or additional costs. There will be rigorous goals for the course and performance assessments for students. The class will be open to students in grades 10-12 and will be a full-year elective. Two anthologies will be purchased through the media center budget. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Guitar and its Role in American Music

This course is a one semester elective for students in grades 9-12. Students will study the history of rock and roll through performance on the guitar and will learn how to play different styles (i.e. blues, jazz, rock) on the guitar. The course will have rigorous goals and objectives and media specialists and reading specialists will work closely with the department in designing the curriculum. There will be no new staffing, but there will be a need for three guitars and amplifiers at a cost of \$500. Rita Gedansky made a motion to approve the course and Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The course will be placed on the Board of Education agenda.

Vote in favor: 5

Motion passed

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Discussion and Possible Action on High School Graduation Requirements

Mr. Charles Britton presented a roll-out schedule of credit adjustments that will be made to address the new state mandated graduation requirements. Mr. Hurley expressed concern over the delay in implementation of the increase in World Language requirements. Rita Gedansky made a motion accept the roll-out schedule. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vote in favor: 5

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/bam