

**AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 30, 2009

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Tom Hurley, Angela McNabola, Dr. Charles Britton, Robert Slie, Sheila Wycinowski

Guests: Alberta Conte, Jill Polisson

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Rita Gedansky served as chairperson. Mrs. Wycinowski asked the committee if the order of the agenda could be changed due to guest presenters. The committee agreed.

Proposal to Renumber the Spanish Courses

The first order of business was the renumbering of Spanish Courses. Mrs. Conte made a proposal supported by Dr. Britton to renumber Spanish courses. Ninth grade Spanish will become Spanish Two. The highest course offered in Spanish at Amity will be Spanish Five. Mrs. Conte stated counselors will communicate the change to colleges and universities. Board members also questioned the scope and sequence for Chinese. Mrs. Conte will discuss the scope and sequence with regard to Chinese at a later meeting. Mr. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve the renumbering of Spanish courses, Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The committee approved the proposal.

Vote in favor: Thomas Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Angela McNabola **Motion passed**

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

New Course Proposal – High School

The next order of business was the Advanced Symphonic Orchestra. Mrs. Polisson, district strings teacher, presented a proposal for an honors orchestra course. Student currently play adapted songs and this proposal would allow Amity's advanced students to play authentic symphonic music. Additionally, it will allow strings and band students to work, study, and perform together. Mrs. Polisson has worked with staff and students and confirmed there is strong interest in students taking Advanced Orchestra. Mrs. Polisson will streamline the rationale portion of her proposal before it is presented to the full Board of Education. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve the new course proposal. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the committee.

Vote in favor: Thomas Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Angela McNabola **Motion passed**

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

New Text Proposal – Middle School

The next agenda item was a presentation of the middle school Social Studies text, *The American Journey: Early Years*. The book meets state benchmarks and guidelines and was piloted by middle school staff last year. Students, teachers, and parents gave the text high marks. The text highlights essential questions, critical thinking, and literacy strategies. The text also has an online version. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve the new course proposal. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the committee.

Vote in favor: Thomas Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Angela McNabola **Motion passed**

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2009

The last order of business was the approval of minutes. Tom Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried

Vote in favor: Thomas Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Angela McNabola **Motion passed**

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

Rita Gedansky made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m. Angela McNabola seconded the motion. The motion carried by all Board members.

Vote in favor: Thomas Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Angela McNabola

Motion passed

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/bam