

Minutes of the Planning Committee of the Board of Education  
Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg.org](http://www.ctreg.org)  
January 10, 2013

A meeting of the Planning Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday January 7, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler, Principal Andy O'Brien, Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, and Committee Members Pam Zmek, George Bauer, Gary Suslavich, Community Member Deb DeSorbo and Chuck Cosgriff.

The meeting was called to order by M. Van Aken at 6:07pm.

The committee discussed the following:

**1. NHS STEM Electives:**

The following are the new STEM Electives which will be offered next year at NHS:

**Introduction to Engineering;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to juniors and seniors. This course will introduce students to the principles and skills of the field of engineering. Students will learn to use a 3 D Printer which will be purchased for this class. Evaluation is based upon projects, tests, quizzes and a final exam; this is a level 2 course. Prerequisite: Algebra II

**Computer Animation Concepts;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students will be introduced to the principles and skills of computer animation. Evaluation will be based heavily on projects as well as quizzes, tests and a final exam; this is a level 2 course.

**Biotechnology;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to juniors and seniors and designed for students interested in careers in life sciences. Evaluation will be based upon tests, quizzes, lab work, homework and a final exam; this is a level 2 course. Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry.

**2. NHS Social Studies/History Elective:**

The following are the new Social Studies/History Electives which will be offered next year at NHS:

**American Popular Culture;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors. This course will investigate the developments in mass media throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the impact each has had on American culture. Students will evaluate multiple sources of information in diverse media formants to critically explore topics through comparisons of primary sources, expository writing assignments and persuasive communication exercise. This is a level 2 course.

**Sociology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to juniors and seniors. This course introduces students to concepts such as the foundation of sociology, crime and deviance, relationships, the adolescent in society, social media and internet personas, urban and rural environment, rights of passage, racism and music and perception. Students will be required to read two full length books and analyze how and why the individuals, events and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text. This is a level 2 course.

**History through Film;** a .5 Credit, one semester course offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors. This course will examine the relationship between film and history. Students will be required to watch the assigned films in class and at home and write essays that will evaluate points of view, reasoning and the use of evidence and rhetoric. They will also create performance based assessments including scripts and short videos of their own. This is a level 2 course.

The committee requested that Mr. O'Brien present these new course offerings to the entire BOE at a televised meeting in either April or May.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Maryanne Van Aken*

Maryanne Van Aken  
Chair, Planning Committee  
Regional School District 14 Board of Education