

MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Curriculum Committee
Thursday, July 7, 2022; 3:00 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Present

Jonathan Kapstein, Chair
Jim Crocker
Carol Ann Brown

Absent

Michael Devine

Also Present

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Draft Protocols for Approving Curriculum, Textbooks, and Course Offerings

Dr. Fernandez circulated a draft of the protocols for committee members to review. They were developed by Dr. Fernandez and based on current board policy and in simplified terms with a step-by-step process and timeline to avoid last minute approval. The timelines ensure that the Board is informed and decisions are made in a way that schools can move forward with their programs.

A new course proposal document was also created, which would require teachers to complete and submit before the Curriculum Committee whenever a new course is suggested and prior to any course being offered in the Program of Studies and available for student registration, preferably, the first week in November. The Program of Studies is typically made available to students in mid-January.

Textbooks must be approved by the Board only if they are providing 50% or more of the instructional program, which for many of the course offerings is not the case. Many times multiple sources are utilized i.e. Novels, websites, etc. Very few courses rely completely on textbooks.

Mr. McAllister noted that the proposed timeline fits nicely into the district's budget process.

The goal of the protocols is to make the process as simple as possible while adhering to Connecticut Statutes and Board policy. Mr. Kapstein asked that Dr. Fernandez create a timeline to further simplify the process. Dr. Fernandez suggested that the full protocols be utilized as a Teacher Guide.

III. Where I Live Connecticut – A textbook for Third Graders

Third grade alternates between Social Studies and Science, which equates to a one-half year course offering. Students are exposed to American History in grade 7; local history is presented to students first. The textbook aligns with the Connecticut State framework for Social Studies, but is not required.

Mr. Kapstein recommended that the textbook be approved.

Carol Ann made a motion to accept/approved the textbook as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

IV. Wellness Curriculum (First Read)

The state has requested that each year there be a Health Curriculum for grades Pre-k to 12. Dr. Fernandez reviewed the curricula for students in grades 9-12 with the committee. What is being presented today has been in the works for the past two years. Parents can opt out of sections that are related to reproduction and sexual health.

The committee approved the first read unanimously.

V. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Kapstein deferred the next meeting date until further discussions with Dr. Fernandez

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made Jim Crocker and seconded by Jonathan Kapstein to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige

Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk