

MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Curriculum Committee
Friday, July 29, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School

Present

Jonathan Kapstein, Chair
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
Tikva Rose (exited 10:30)
Jim Crocker (ex-officio)

Absent

N/A

Also Present

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Kyle Brennan, Social Studies Teacher
Jessica McKay, English Department Head

I. Call to order/Introductions

Jonathan Kapstein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Review Approvals Procedure Flowsheet

The current, streamlined, document establishes timelines and protocols to ensure that the Region 14 Board of Education has sufficient time to approve course offerings, curricula, and textbooks prior to their intended implementation date. The procedure will take effect beginning September 2022.

Textbooks will be brought before the committee if they are anticipated to be 50% or more of the course content. Note this is generally a rare occurrence due to the utilization of supplemental materials in the classroom.

The Curriculum Committee will make the primary decision on textbooks and curricula. Bringing them before the board is usually a formality, with the board trusting that the committee has properly vetted the materials.

III. Overview of new Curriculum Template

The district will utilize “Understanding by Design”, an internationally accepted format for curriculum writing in use since 1998, as its curriculum template. It has also been referenced as the “Backwards Design”.

Dr. Fernandez explained the various components of the template, which included a Year-at-a-Glance; Desired Results - Goals, Transfer, Meaning, Acquisition; Assessment Evidence; and Learning Plan. Beginning this summer, every curriculum will utilize this format.

IV. Committee Approval of Curricula

a. AP Seminar (Jessica McKay)

AP Seminar, a Capstone Program course, is a foundational curriculum that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students meet with their colleagues initially to agree on their collaborator for the course.

The class aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

b. AP Research (Jessica McKay)

In AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone program, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research and inquiry in order to produce and defend their scholarly work. The course allows students to explore an academic topic, problem issue, or idea of individual interest.

c. Sports and Society

Sports and Society, a new half-year course offering written by Kyle Brennan, will task students to examine ways in which sports reflect values, trends, and movements in society. In this debate-driven class, students will define the criteria that make for successful, evidenced-based arguments. The four units are Sports Culture and Nationalism; Sports and Social Issues; Sports Economics and the Media; and Sports, STEM, and Health.

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the curricula as presented; the curricula will be brought to the full board at their next meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Paige

Board Clerk

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