



Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

---

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education  
Curriculum Committee  
Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:00 p.m.  
Mitchell Elementary School  
Flanders Room

### **Present**

Jonathan Kapstein, Chair  
Michael Devine  
Carol Ann Brown  
James Crocker (ex-officio)

### **Absent**

Tikva Rose

### **Also Present**

Brian Murphy, Superintendent of Schools  
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Thomas DiMarco, Agriscience Teacher  
Benjamin Guerette, English Teacher  
Marisa Holtman, English Teacher  
Barbara Riordan, English Teacher

Patricia Paige, Recording Clerk

### **I. Call to order**

Jonathan Kapstein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **II. New Course Proposal**

A. Future Agricultural Educators Agriscience Elective

Future Agricultural Educators is a half-year elective course designed to prepare students for a career as an Agriscience teacher and will be made available to juniors and seniors. Much of the introductory course will focus on the teacher perspective of a high school Vo-Ag program as it relates to classroom and laboratory instruction, Future Farmers of America (FFA) programming and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) implementation.

Interest in the course was determined through a survey orchestrated by Mr. DiMarco and extended to Agriscience students. Fifty-four percent of the students, who completed the survey, expressed an interest in the elective. Based on the initial results, class size is anticipated to be between 15 to 20 students, but is subject to change based on actual interest.

Dr. Pat Jepson of the UConn College of Agriculture was consulted by Mr. DiMarco in the development of the course. She offered a number of teaching focus points as a way for students to build on their experience and transition to a college level course.

*Foundations of Agricultural Education* will be utilized for class reference.

A motion was made by Michael Devine and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve Agriscience Elective, Future Agricultural Educators as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Curricula for Approval**

#### **A. English 9**

English 9 is designed to be the foundation for all English courses in subsequent years and was fine-tuned to make it more engaging for students. The course's six units are developed around the use of language and are defined as, Power of Our Words, Power of the Stories We Tell, The Language of Love, Words That Make a Difference, Language Shinning a Light on Global Issues, and The Beauty of Language. Throughout the year, students set goals, monitor their progress towards them, and reflect on their growth.

Implementation guides will be developed and edited as the course is taught.

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve English 9 curriculum as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. English 12**

Minor revisions were made to the English 12 curriculum, which included a shift in several of the course units and the addition of a new unit, Culture and Craft. The course will task students with examining the complexities of the world through the lens of their own culture, artistic interests and unique passions.

Discussions on the use of gaming as a possible component of the science fiction module were had. Ms. Holtman thought the idea may spark the interest of students and/or play a role in the creative application project.

Other committee members were pleased to see that a Shakespeare component was written into the curriculum.

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Michael Devine to accept/approve English 12 curriculum as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Next Meeting Date**

The next anticipated meeting date of the Curriculum Committee is set Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

V. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Patricia Paige*

*Board Clerk*

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