

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the  
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 18th, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference Room

Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction- The meeting was called to order at 9:58am.

Members Present

L.Timpanelli, BOE Chair

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair

S. Iwanicki, Ed.D., administrative designee

Members Absent

J.McNamee BOE Member

L.Nuland, BOE Member

- II. Public Comment- Trumbull parent Daniel Durden shared that he loves smaller meetings, communicated that standards are important. He added that the Board says that curriculum will be posted. He stated that he does not believe that his son's Math Curriculum from 8<sup>th</sup> grade is posted on the website and urged the Board to uphold its policies. Trumbull parent Brianne Brienza shared that she has always been able to access curriculum for her child's classes through the website.
- III. Approval/Minutes– Regular Meeting 05/05/2022 Lucinda made a motion to approve the minutes, Maria Seconded.
- IV. New Business
- a. Kindergarten Mathematics- Curriculum Guide for Current Text

Kim Lombardi, our Elementary Math Program Leader introduced Robin Tedesco, Daniel's Farm Math Specialist, Laura Coughlin, Jane Ryan's Math Specialist, Grade 1 teacher Lisa Depino. She explained that each of the representatives present at our meeting participated in the curriculum creation. The curriculum being presented correlates with our new Math Program- Bridges which was instituted last summer. The new curriculum includes two components, the core Bridges curriculum and Number Corner. This guide outlines the pacing of these components, as well as other key parts such as: The Big Ideas, focus questions, and vocabulary for each unit. Close attention was also paid to monitoring for student learning through age appropriate assessment. Mrs. Petitti asked how the teachers found the curriculum in the classroom and noted that she had heard that some teachers found it to be a lot. Mrs. Depino share that while it was initially overwhelming, teachers were pleased as they had time to learn it more and found that it worked well for students. Mrs. Coughlin added that they saw

results in student outcomes too. Mrs. Tedesco agreed. Mrs. Timpanelli made a motion to accept the Kindergarten Mathematics Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Petitti seconded.

b. Grade 1 Mathematics- Curriculum Guide for Current Text

Mrs. Lombardi noted that the Grade 1 Mathematics Curriculum Guide development followed the same process as the kindergarten. The teachers on the committee also collaborated with the Kindergarten Curriculum Team for alignment. Using the new program, teachers experienced tremendous results for students. As a district, first graders began the year at 14% on grade level and ended at 68% at grade level. The guide will allow teachers using the Bridges and Number Corner components to facilitate lessons which encourage the development of mathematical concepts in a variety of ways using real world applications. Mrs. Timpelli asked how these units will ultimately prepare students for middle school math as well. It was shared that year, we began reinstating vertical meetings between the elementary representatives and the middle school math representatives to strengthen our programming. We will further incorporate vertical meetings as is possible. Both the Kindergarten and Grade 1 Mathematics Curriculum Guides help to provide a strong foundation in mathematics for our students. Mrs. Timpanelli made a motion to accept the Grade 1 Mathematics Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Petitti seconded

c. Grade 6 English Language Arts & Grade 6 Reading - Curriculum Guide Updates

Hillcrest Instructional Academic Team Leaders Leigh Gabriel and Valentia Iacono Cenatiempo presented the new Grade 6 and Grade 7 Curriculum Guides. Mrs. Gabriel explained that these revisions were needed to separate “Integrated Literacy” so that the standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Reading are clearly defined for students, parents, and teachers. Each course will also be renamed to reflect their focus. For each unit, vocabulary was added, standards were prioritized, and assessment were reviewed and revised as needed. Additionally, a common formative assessment was added for each unit in each of the four courses so that teams can engage collaboratively in a higher level of analysis regarding student progress. Mrs. Petitti offered that the guide was easy to follow and that separating the two courses made sense. Mrs. Timpanelli inquired about the manner in which Spelling is addressed in the curriculum. It was shared that Spelling is a focus during the writing revision process. It is also addressed through word study, such as root words. Mrs. Timpanelli made a motion to accept the Grade 6 English Language Arts & Grade 6 Reading guides and bring them to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded.

d. Grade 7 English Language Arts & Grade 7 Reading - Curriculum Guide Update

A similar process was followed with committee of ten (10) teachers for the Grade 7 ELA and Reading curricula. Mrs. Petitti asked about the number of minutes that were devoted to instruction. Mrs. Gabriel shared that Grade 6 ELA has approximately one 45-minute period each day throughout the school year for 181 days and Grade 6 Reading, approximately one 45-minute period each day throughout the school year for 181 days. Mrs. Iacono Cenatiempo added that Grade 7 ELA has approximately one 45-minute period each day for 181 days, while Grade 7 Reading meets approximately one 45-minute period every other day, all year in the unified arts portion of the schedule for 90 days. They commented that redefining the standards for each of these courses will not only assist teachers in planning and delivering lessons (especially new teachers,) but it will also greatly increase the clarity for the students learning the curriculum as well as the parents supporting their child’s development. Mrs. Timpanelli

made a motion to accept the Grade 7 English Language Arts & Grade 7 Reading guides and bring them to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded.

e. Honors SCSU Sociology- Curriculum Guide Update

History Department Chair, Kathy Rubano, relayed that the first two courses only cost \$65 for 3 credits. If their schedule permits, students can take both Sociology and Psych for one fee of \$65 concurrently. Mrs. Petitti noted that six (6) college credit for the price of \$65 could really help offset tuition costs for some families. Mrs. Rubano furthered that students enrolled in either course can also take courses for free the following summer at Southern. These credits can be transferred to any state school. She also mentioned that most professors do not use one specific text and that Southern will provide materials for the courses in addition to the materials already listed in our guides. Furthermore, Southern will provide resources free of cost as needed. They even have scholars they can connect with the school for the students during course delivery.

Briana Brienza and Brian Springsteen worked with the Head of Sociology at Southern to review the THS content in comparison to Southern's. They found that much of the material Southern expected, Trumbull Public Schools (TPS) already had in our guide. New to the revised TPS guide are the college experience and the course requirements in line with Southern. They also updated the syllabus so that it aligns with the university. Any of the supplementals currently listed will also be updated with Southern's course in an ongoing manner. Mrs. Brienza also has access to Southern's blackboard which stores resources for students and professors. This access can allow for continuously updated information in line with university. Mrs. Timpanelli made a motion to accept the Honors SCSU Sociology- Curriculum Guide Update and bring it to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded.

f. Honors SCSU Psychology- Curriculum Guide Update

Mrs. Rubano shared that this course has also been revised to align with Southern's requirements similarly to Sociology. Mr. LaBarca and Mrs. Rubano spent a day with Southern professors to analyze components. Again, Southern was impressed with Trumbull's course guide- very few changes were needed. Standards were prioritized and other materials were also added. Trumbull is pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for its students. Mrs. Timpanelli made a motion to accept the Honors SCSU Psychology- Curriculum Guide Update and bring it to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded.

g. Updated Dates and Times for the 2022-2023 School Year

This item was tabled until more of the regular Curriculum Committee members are present.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57am.