

# TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

## Curriculum Committee of the Trumbull Board of Education

### Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 8:30 a.m.  
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference Room

### Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

#### Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair  
J.McNamee, BOE Member  
L.Nuland, BOE Member  
S.Iwanicki, Ed.D, administrative designee

- II. Public Comment

Trumbull parent Daniel Durden communicated that at the last meeting, he was interrupted and no corrective action towards the person was taken during the meeting. He furthered that he would be recording meetings moving forward. Mrs. Petitti shared that when staff members are involved, situations are appropriately addressed with school administration outside of the public meeting in which the focus is Curriculum.

- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 08/18/2022

Mrs. Petitti motioned to approve the minutes of the August 18<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Meeting. Mrs. Nuland and Ms. McNamee abstained. The minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

- IV. New Business

- a. Curriculum Guide Revision- Grade 7 & 8 Spanish/Español Level A and B (Level 1)

Spanish teachers Marianela Castillo and Brenda Tarek presented the updated Curriculum Guide which represents that same coursework completed by high school student in Spanish 1 spread over two years on the middle school level. Their teacher team met to revise the guide with the current text, prioritize standards, coordinate the vocabulary and ensure all the tools within the high interest program are being used optimally. Mrs. Petitti noted that the guide was well written and appreciated the time that went into carefully considering each unit. Ms. McNamee asked about native speakers of Spanish and the teachers shared that extensions are provided, particularly in the cultural unit, but that several students while fluent orally, do not have the written language skills which they learn in class. Mrs. Nuland added that the coordination of the component of the curriculum guide—prioritization of standards and

alignment of Key Ideas were well organized. Mrs. Nuland made a motion to accept the Revised Grade 7 & 8 Spanish/Español Level A and B (Level 1) Curriculum Guide and bring it to the full Board for approval. Ms. McNamee seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Grade 11- American Perspectives- New Text Approval: Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. 2003

Department Chair Adeline. Marzialo shared that *Kindred* is an award-winning novel that explores narratives from different time periods. Written by a female author of color, it gives teachers further depth in choices to select a text based on specific students and learning needs. Mrs. Petitti noted that the book has some sections which may be difficult for students, and Ms. McNamee shared that aspects of the book must be taught with great care. Mrs. Marzialo noted that the English Department is adept at developing relationships with students, so that content can be taught in appropriate ways that allow students to not only learn about author's craft and style, but to come to their own conclusions as readers, writers, and thinkers. It was also mentioned that *Kindred* is on the approved Advanced Placement (AP) Literature list. Mrs. Nuland added that the novel is high interest and appropriate for students at the eleventh and twelfth grade levels. Mrs. Nuland made a motion to accept the text *Kindred* and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

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

A discussion was held to rearrange the dates for the rest of the year and the following were agreed upon:

- October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am
- November 17 at 8:30am
- December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am (pending need of the meeting)

Mrs. Petitti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17am. Mrs. McNamee seconded. . The motion was unanimously agreed to.



**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEW TEXT REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS**

**Date Submitted:** 3.28.22

**Title of Text:** *Kindred*

**Author:** Octavia Butler

**Publisher:** Beacon Press

**Year Published:** January 1, 2003 (last copywritten); first published in 1979

**ISBN Number:**

- ISBN-10 : 0807083690
- ISBN-13 : 978-0807083697

**Core<sup>1</sup> or Supplemental:** Canonical/Contemporary—Supplementary (the only Core text in this course is an excerpt from “Civil Disobedience”; however, teachers must select at least one canonical text and one contemporary text.

**Course:** English 11 American Perspectives

**Grade Level:** 11

**(If applicable) Replaces text:** None

**Rationale for adopting new text:** *Kindred* is a unique narrative that allows students to explore innovative literary development of a story (two “stories” told as overlapping narratives but from different time periods) from a female author of color. It is a highly engaging narrative by an acclaimed writer whose most recent accolade hails from NASA as one of the most important and influential American science fiction writer, which named the designated landing area of Perseverance’s rover on Mars. The narrative itself, while meant for young adult to adult readers, has a Lexile difficulty of 580, making it accessible to all readers in English 11. This also allows students to focus their skill development on how writers use various techniques and make literary choices to develop their narratives rather than having to grapple with comprehension of a more challenging text, so students’ learning focuses on analyzing rather than comprehension. Having this choice will allow teachers to select texts based on specific students and learning needs.

**Text Description:** Dana, a modern Black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the White son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

**Strengths:** As a PEN Lifetime Achievement and McArthur Award winning writer, Butler’s technique is masterful, as she weaves two stories together. The two narratives are high interest for young adults, and the Lexile level, 580, makes it accessible to all students. Additionally, with part of the story set in

---

<sup>1</sup> “Core” refers to a resource that must be used by all students for attainment of course goals.



present times, students will be able to relate to Dana's situation more easily, thus entering the text with ease to study Butler's art with facility.

**Weaknesses:**

Submitted by: Adeline Marzialo, English Department Chair, Trumbull High School

Reviewed by: <u>Adeline Marzialo</u>	<u>9.28.22</u>
Principal/Designee	Date
<u>Susan C. Swanecki</u>	<u>9/22/22</u>
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments	Date
<u>Liz Meland</u>	<u>9/22/22</u>
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Member	Date
<u>Julia McNamee</u>	<u>9/27/22</u>
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Member	Date
<u>Marie Fortin</u>	<u>9/22/22</u>
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Member	Date