

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Introduction- Mrs. Petitti called meeting was called to order at 8:33am.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

J. McNamee, BOE Member

- II. Public Comment- No public comment was received.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 11-29-22 Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the minutes from 11-29-2022. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. New Business
- a. New Text Proposal- Kindergarten Social Studies- Kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Crawford shared that the Kindergarten curriculum is going well and the students have been engaged with the new standards of comparing past and present. For example, students watched a video of people using a rotary phone, something they do not see in the present. At Frenchtown, they also used voting cards for a unit to help further engage learners in understanding the voting process. The committee also reviewed the curriculum to consider elements of equity. The book *It's okay to be different* by Todd Parr is a book that they can use to approach the topic of differences across a number of areas aimed at inclusivity for all. Mrs. Petitti asked if the whole series would be purchased. It was shared that the series will be purchased for the library. She noted that it is also in the public library. Mrs. Norcel noted that the book celebrated diversity which is not just about skin color. Mrs. Nuland added that the book highlights several differences. Mrs. Nuland moved to approve the book *It's okay to be different* by Todd Parr and bring it to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded. Mrs. Norcel was also in support of the book. The motion passed.
- b. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 2 Social Studies
Librarian Lindsay Armstrong, a teacher leader on the curriculum revision committees, presented for Grade 2. Grade two revised some of the formative and summative assessments since the first pilot version. They noted that the branches of government were a challenge for the age level. They added more pictures and group work to assessments to

build deeper understanding. The curriculum writing team also proposed the book *Rise Up and Write It: With Mail, Posters, and More!* The book really relates to the concepts and standards in the unit. It has pull-outs and aspects that students can interact with as well. Mrs. Norcel noted that it integrates with the ELA units and could be turned into individual as well as group projects. Middle school social studies teacher and fellow curriculum revision team member, Mrs. Cerulli, added that that the teams did discuss ELA integration when they built the units. Mrs. Armstrong highlighted that Unit 2, for example, dovetails perfectly with their informational writing unit. The *Magic Tree House: #35 Camp Time in California* is being used as a read aloud. It focuses on the John Muir and presents a historical fiction perspective on creating a monument. Mrs. Norcel asked if teachers are prepared to discuss the negative aspects which may arise regarding building a monument. The team mentioned that teachers discuss monuments not just from why they are created, but materials they might use and the values communities might want people to remember when creating a monument. Art teachers are involved in some schools. At Booth Hill, students presented their monuments in front of a green screen and celebrated the qualities and choices they made as they used their prepared scripts. Mrs. Petitti asked how new teachers might be aware of expectations. It was shared that teachers have had time on professional development days to discuss social studies curriculum and expectations. In addition, library media specialists support grade levels with resources and implementation ideas. Overall, the district, principals, as well as teacher leaders do build in time to help to pull teachers together to maintain consistency in teaching the standards according to the guide. Mrs. Armstrong shared examples of student work. Students prepared a google slide show on their favorite change maker, dressed up as that person and presented. Other students within Trumbull prepared a wax museum of change makers. Each school works as teams which helps new teachers. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the Grade 2 Curriculum Guide and bring it to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the books *Rise Up and Write It: With Mail, Posters, and More!* and *Magic Tree House: #35 Camp Time in California* and bring them to the full Board. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed.

- c. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 3 Social Studies- Middle school social studies teacher, Lisa Cerulli, was a teacher leader on each of the curriculum teams revising curriculum this year. She presented the Grade 3 Social Studies Curriculum Guide and that it begins with the indigenous peoples and then builds on further historical concepts throughout our state. There are some topics about revolution and war that occur at this grade level, but all topics are approached at an age-appropriate level. The book *The Little Book of Government* serves as a very simplistic jumping off point that all students can read independently before they dive into more complex topics specifically in Connecticut. The teams also looked into field trips and ways to engage students on many levels. Mrs. Norcel suggested that for the 23-24 school year, we should also buy the corresponding text on Presidential Elections that corresponds with *The Little Book of Government*. Mrs. Nuland moved to approve the Grade 3 Curriculum Guide and bring it to the full Board for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed. Mrs. Norcel moved to approve *The Little Book of Government* and bring it to the full board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed
- d. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 4 Social Studies- Grade 4 social studies teacher, Stacey Weinstein, shared that the Grade 4 Social Studies Curriculum is primarily about U.S. Geography and that there is a lot of positive feedback about it. It starts with the background of Connecticut and then branches into the regions using different social studies skills and

celebrates the differences and similarities in the regions. The assessments allow for students to explore different geography and cultures across the regions with student choice embedded. One of the aspects that students explore is student research around states within a region. Mrs. Weinstein shared an example of the student work on the project. There is a virtual field trip subscription that can be purchased. The pros and cons of virtual field trips were discussed. Mrs. Nuland moved to approve the Grade 4 Social Studies Curriculum Guide and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed.

e. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 5 Social Studies.

Mrs. Carrano, grade 5 teacher leader and representative on the revision team, presented on behalf of the Grade 5 team. She shared that the teachers can see the effects of the other grade levels work on the social studies pilots as they affect the incoming grade 5 students. Students are coming to class more familiar with topics they were not before—economics, for example. The Grade 5 team discussed moving from using completely technology for the project to hybrids of paper and technology. This adjustment helped in terms of equitable resources for students as well. The grade level uses Scholastic TrueFlix which has text features and ties into the ELA units and helps to master the curricular concepts as well. The content is heavy in this grade level. Mrs. Petitti asked if the grade level has the resources they need. Mrs. Carrano shared that they do have resources, in particular Brainpop has some really strong support as well as Trueflix, but there are pockets that they are researching to find more. Overall, the new curriculum guide has been working well, particularly in Unit 3 where it is tied in with ELA. Mrs. Norcel made a motion to approve the new Grade 5 Curriculum Guide and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion was approved.

f. Future Meeting Dates- The Board members discussed dates for this year's curriculum committee. It was noted that Thursdays at 8:30 has been past practice and has the least interruption to the school district. It was also noted that a February meeting will be needed for any new course approvals. Mrs. Nuland noted that she could make the dates as could Mrs. Petitti. Mrs. Nuland made a motion to approve the dates. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed. Mrs. Petitti also noted that while the Committee does not yet know Mrs. McNamee's teaching schedule for the semester, adjustments could be discussed at a later date as needed. Approved dates are listed below.

- Wednesday, February 8th, 8:30
- Thursday, March 23rd 8:30
- Thursday, May 18th 8:30
- Thursday, June 15th 8:30 (if needed)
- Thursday, August 24th 8:30
- Thursday, Sept 21st 8:30
- Thursday, October 19th 8:30
- Thursday, November 30th 8:30