

MINUTES

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education

Curriculum Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Flanders Room

Mitchell Elementary School

**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  
Devon Bares, Chair, Business/Technology  
Michael Sturges, Social Studies Teacher

**I. Call to order**

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

**II. Microeconomics and Macroeconomics Curriculum**

Both ECE (Early College Experience) courses are half-year, semester electives. The course proposals were presented to, and approved by, the committee at their December 7, 2022 meeting and by the full board for implementation at the January 3, 2023 board meeting. Students in grades 10-12 can begin enrolling for the 23/24 school year, and if both courses are satisfactorily completed, can earn the student six UConn credits.

Subsequent to the approval of the course proposals, the formal curricula documents are now before the committee for review and consideration. The curricula were constructed alongside the guidance of UConn professors, who offered a rudimentary version, which was then customized to fit the needs of Nonnewaug High School students. Students will participate in class discussions and activities that explore economic big ideas through the use of defining case studies, research projects, and Podcasts to provide a few examples.

Discussions were had regarding the projected student course enrollment and grade level rigor so that students who plan to continue onto a higher education, obtain substantive value.

Jonathan Kapstein moved to accept/approve Microeconomics/UConn ECE Econ 1201 curriculum as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting, seconded by Michael Devine, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Jonathan Kapstein moved to accept/approve Macroeconomics/UConn ECE Econ 1202 curriculum as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting, seconded by Jim Crocker, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

**III. AP US History Textbook**

Members of the committee indicated that the book was well-written and tackled many issues; however, there were several hesitations. Some members questioned the practicality of alternatives such as paperback and electronic versions, which would not only reduce the purchase price, but also eliminate its cumbersomeness in relation to the weight of student backpacks. The pros and cons to each option were discussed with the content value of the proposed textbook for student learning outweighing the advantages of alternative possibilities.

Jonathan Kapstein moved to accept/approve the AP US History book as presented and to recommend its approval by the board at their next meeting, seconded by Jim Crocker, Michael Devine was a nay, motion carried.

Carol Ann Brown voted yes to the textbook and its content with the understanding that the delivery format would be explored further.

**IV. Vision of a Learner “I Can” Statements**

Dr. Fernandez offered the updated “I Can” Statements for all six attributes for the committee to review. The “I Can” statements will be utilized by the teachers to measure a student’s demonstration of the attributes.

**V. World Languages**

Tabled for the next meeting of the Curriculum Committee.

**VI. Forensics Textbook**

Distributed to committee members for review.

**VII. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Jim Crocker to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Patricia Paige*

*Board Clerk*

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