

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education
Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction- Mrs. Petitti called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

Members Present

Members Absent

Mrs. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair
Ms. McNamee, BOE Member
Mrs. Nuland, BOE Member
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D., administrative designee

- II. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

- III. Public Comment - No public comment was received.

- IV. Approval/Minutes - Regular Meeting 2-8-2023

Ms. McNamee noted areas where Board members initials should be double-checked and asked that a sentence be revised. Mrs. Nuland then motioned to approve the amended minutes. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- V. New Business

- a. Curriculum Guide Update- Grades 10, 11, and 12- Digital Media

Nick Daddona presented the updated curriculum guide for Digital Media previously known as Video Production. He was joined by Department Chair Christina Rusate. Nick Daddona explained that the course, which has not been updated for some time, will now cover the basics of media design production. Students will be able to take videos, edit them, and learn about story boarding. He led the committee through the highlights of each unit and the software used. Students will be using state of the art equipment and Department Chair Christina Rusate, who has been supporting the program through the Perkins grant, shared the department has wanted to implement these updates for quite some time. Ms. McNamee asked if the Department thought about including anything about media literacy and manipulation. The committee then discussed being sure that ethics is covered within the class. Nick Daddona shared ways in which the course addresses some aspects of ethics through advertising. Mrs. Nuland added that the Adobe Suite is a step up and she is excited that students will have access. Dr. Iwanicki asked about real-life experiences and field trips for students. Nick Daddona shared that the class has had a CBS Sport Asset Manager come to share a variety of aspects of his role, including the production and editing of pop-up

videos. Mrs. Nuland made motion to accept the 2023 Digital Media Curriculum Guide. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 9- Global Civilizations

Social Studies teachers Bryan Springsteen and Breanne Brienza presented the new Global Civilizations Curriculum Guide, joined by their Department Chair, Kathy Rubano. Bryan Springsteen shared that the curriculum guide was updated to cover more global content and align with the new textbook which was approved last year. He noted that the last curriculum guide was very Eurocentric and the team's aim was to ensure the content was more global. There is a large focus on skill building, writing, and 21st century inquiry skills. Mrs. Nuland inquired about the incorporation of Judaism. It was shared that all three foundational religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) are covered. Mrs. Petitti shared that supplemental resources must be selected with care. The team agreed. Bryan Springsteen shared that the new text has allowed teachers to cover more global content and the resources, interactive maps, for example, have been really helpful for students. Kathy Rubano shared that they hope to use the same text for the Honors Global Civilizations class in the future. Mrs. Petitti asked if more texts had been budgeted, emphasizing that the students should have it. Dr. Iwanicki shared that the request for this text was submitted and approved for purchase next year. Ms. McNamee mentioned that certain units, the one that addresses Imperialism, for example, could perhaps have even more cultural inclusion. Bryan Springsteen shared that there are background lessons that cover different groups and provided examples. Breanne Brienza shared that students have activities in which they explore diverse perspectives such as journal writing from the perspective of an explorer and a Native American. Kathy Rubano furthered that in addition to the units in this course, the Social Studies Department also offers a course on African American History with Latino focus in the second half of the year. Ms. McNamee also asked if the team was able to incorporate more writing. Breanne Brienza replied that they have been able to incorporate multiple writing assignments that lead up to an independent inquiry project. Mrs. Petitti reminded the teachers to be sure that any materials are taught with balance. Ms. McNamee made motion to accept the 2023 Global Civilizations Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Curriculum Guide Update- ECE Biotechnology

Dr. Thomas Vrabel presented the Update- ECE Biotechnology Curriculum Guide, which now includes UConn SPSS3230. The course is a lecture-only course at the university, but within AgriScience and two periods, they have an expansive laboratory component and also cover several health sciences, such as cancer research and the study of bacteria. Scientific literacy is also a large component of the course. Students also learn ways to be successful in a college-level course so they will be well-prepared to enter their college programs. The students study biology in ancient times all the way to present times. They are exposed to the ever-changing nature of the science and become good detectives who truly understand the Science. Patents and ethics are also a part of the course. Dr. Iwanicki asked about the UConn connection and if students are able to visit to learn about UConn's current research projects. Dr. Vrabel shared that the class visits UConn at least once a year and have several guest speakers. Mrs. Pettiti mentioned the strength of the program and how it provides a solid foundation which is encouraging those students with an interest in medicine. Several success stories of Trumbull Alumnae that have become veterinarians and doctors were also shared. It was also noted that ECE courses should be weighted as heavily as AP courses which they are not currently at Trumbull High School. Dr. Iwanicki will look into this

further. Mrs. Nuland made motion to accept the 2023 Biotechnology Curriculum Guide. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. New Text Proposal- Grades 11-12, Statistics. Larson, Ron. *Elementary Statistics: Picturing the World* (8th Edition)

Dr. Kristin Sroka, the Department Chair for Mathematics shared that the current text is outdated and does not have any technology included. The department reviewed 10 textbooks and selected the Larson text for their course. They made sure the reading, examples, and practice are at the appropriate rigor for the students. Dr. Sroka also shared that the text is a 2023 text and has excellent reviews. Mrs. Petitti, as a former teacher for many years that taught the course, shared that the graphics are very clear. Ms. McNamee asked why the department selected a hard copy as opposed to the online. Dr. Sroka stated that the quote for a hard copy was significantly less. Mrs. Petitti referenced the importance of vocabulary and that it is included. Ms. McNamee inquired if students that take this course can then take AP the next year. Dr. Sroka said most are seniors, but if they are younger, they can take it the next year. Ms. McNamee made a motion to approve the text *Elementary Statistics: Picturing the World* (8th Edition). Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Curriculum Resource Update- Middle School Science

Dr. Iwanicki shared that this update was being provided as a preview of the Board presentation next week to update them regarding middle school science revisions. The process of how teachers were included in the revision and surveyed for input was explained. Liz Doherty, K-5 Science Program Leader, also helped to coordinate throughout the year in gathering sample materials from publishers for review, surveying districts for program use, and arranging meeting times for “The Steps to Innovation” with the team and with Discovery Museum representatives. Jody D’Addario presented highlights of the Amplify program including a sample unit, a simulation example, and activities. She also demonstrated the e-portfolio and student level aspects of the program. Ms. McNamee asked if the text of the program had Lexile level differentiation capabilities. Jody D’Addario shared that the program not only has text-leveling, but there are other features such as highlighting, enlarging, and more. The program also allows a teacher to pause a session for the whole class and for students to maintain their own portfolios. The portfolios can be leveled in order to see which support students need and group them appropriately. Mrs. Petitti inquired if the shift in using the resources for more grade levels had been budgeted and it was shared that it had. A full summary will be presented at the next Board meeting on May 23, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.