

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order to 8:33.
- II. Public Comment- No public comment was received.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Nuland motioned to approve the Regular Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023. Ms. McNamee Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 10 Biology- Trumbull High School (THS) Science teacher, Pat Tividar presented the Grade 10 Biology updates. She noted that the department added academic vocabulary and then considered how to move from the material covered in 1.25 credits to an amount of material that could be covered 1.0 credits. She provided various updates. For example, the biochemistry is a longer unit, so they integrated it into a cell unit. The unit involves creating a model cell by the end. The order of units was also changed. Mrs. Nuland asked if the course will lose any major aspects due to the shortening and Ms. Tividar shared that it remains to be seen, but they are hopeful that the new format will help students to make needed conceptual connections. Ms. McNamee shared the new format seemed to be more relatable for students. Mrs. Petitti asked how the schedule meeting times will impact the contact time. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updates to the Grade 10 Biology Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 11 Chemistry- Trumbull High School (THS) Science teacher, Becky Giroux presented the new Grade 11 Chemistry. She expressed that NGSS standards were used to prioritize the reduction in time. The largest changes were in the electrons and periodic table units. The concepts around light are covered in other classes, so those concepts were removed. Students also cover light in 9th grade and will do so in Astronomy as well. The department has already talked about strategies that they can use to shorten the labs- premeasuring, reducing the number of elements covered, and other techniques will be further discussed to be sure students get the full experience within the new time periods. Mrs. Petitti shared that she hopes the school will prioritize time for teachers as professionals to discuss this implementation. Ms. McNamee shared that praise for the work the department has done so far in discussing ways to discuss the implement the labs in the

shorter time. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updates to the Grade 11 Chemistry Curriculum Guide. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Curriculum Guide Updates- Grade 12 CP Physics & Grade 12 ACP Physics- Trumbull High School (THS) Science teacher, Jon Albers presented the new guides and shared the focus areas of condensing, while preserving hands on activities. The teachers opted to be sure the CP and ACP units were aligned in terms of the sequence. Mr. Albers provided the committee with specific examples. Mrs. Petitti asked if there has been a relationship between those students taking Physics and Astronomy. Mr. Albers shared that anecdotally there has been an interest. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the changes to the 12th grade CP and ACP Physics Curriculum Units. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Curriculum Guide Update- Grade 9 English- Trumbull High School (THS) English Teachers, Jeannette DeNunzio and Norma McFarland, joined English Dept Chair Adeline Marzialo to present the revised Grade 9 English Curriculum Guide. Ms. DeNunzio shared that they were motivated to revise the guide based on a vertical articulation meeting with the middle school teachers so that they can be sure skills are covered that students will need the most. The teacher revision team aimed to make the curriculum user friendly and more simplified. Dept Chair Mazialo also shared that the department also found a book through Advanced Placement (AP) training and Emily Cooper proposed that the team could rethink the curriculum from a standards-forward and humanities analysis approach. The four units now align with the Common Core State Standards and literary choices and build better alignment with the Advanced Placement classes. Ms. McNamee shared that the alignment is so important and she is pleased to see that happening. Mrs. Nuland noted that students sometimes do not understand the common language and asked them if student essays are currently reflecting the skills needed. Mrs. Marzialo shared that the new units are structured to build that academic language. Mrs. Petitti asked about the major differences from the last guide and this version. It was shared that last version has a lot of lists of choices and was less focused and aligned with the AP track. This version combines concepts around the four units and parallels with the skills that will be needed in AP. Mrs. McNamee asked about the protagonist of one of the books as they are younger and she wondered if the students would be interested at the high school level. Mrs. Marzialo shared that the text is a choice written by an African American author about the topic of discovering one's self and has an inspiring story of hope that will be accessible for those students who need the engagement at that Lexile level. Ms. McNamee motioned to accept the changes to the Grade 9 English Curriculum Guide and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Assistant Superintendent's Report – Dr. Iwanicki shared that the district has hired Kate Engledrum as a replacement for Terry Buckingham, our K-5 ELA Program Leader. Additionally, the district's recently revised middle school ELA curriculum was well received by teachers in its first year of implementation. The grade 6 teacher will pilot a change next year and use one of the approved secondary texts, *Harbor Me* as a primary text. They will bring a curriculum revision forward if this is confirmed as a primary text after their pilot next year. Dr. Iwanicki also gave an overview of the curriculum writing projects in place for 2023-2024. She closed with an update that Trumbull Public Schools has not received any updates regarding their waiver submission for the adoption of a new reading curriculum in grades K-3.