

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

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

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting is called to order at 8:32.
- II. Public Comment. Mrs. Petitti received a wonderful note from Mrs. Martin's class thanking her for reading to their class. Each student prepared their own thank you letter with a picture. They were very impressive.
- III. Approval/Minutes –September 29th 2023-Special Meeting. Ms. McNamee moved to approve the minutes from the September 29th Special Meeting and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Curriculum Guide Approval- New Course- American Indian History 9-12, Katie Boland and Mike Margonis presented the new curriculum. Department Chair Kathy Rubano was also on hand. The educators shared that the course has been developed over the course of the last three years. Ms. Boland has been using three main contacts at the Scaticoke Tribe. They have been instrumental in designing the course, planning the course and supplementing the course as guest speakers a few times. In particular, Beth Regan has come in a few times and has over 35 years of teaching experience. Mr, Margonis shared that they visited sites to do research that is incorporated into the unit along with academic vocabulary. Ms. McNamee asked if it was more course was more thematic or chronological in nature; it was shared that it was thematic. Mrs. Boland has students with American Indian heritage that have made the class really meaningful for the students taking it. The class has even led students to start a bulletin board to tie into the theme "We are still here." The class even has engaged in trying traditional American Indian foods. The course is one semester and currently has 17 students, most of whom are sophomores. Mrs. Petitti noted that it is a nice course for 9th graders looking for an additional elective. Mrs. Nuland inquired about how they might share beyond the course itself. Ms. McNamee moved that we approve the American Indian History Curriculum Guide and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Curriculum Guide Update- Wood Technology I, Grades 9-12, Teacher Joe Amaturò presented the new guide which updated the problem solving and critical thinking aspects. The educators wanted students to be more independent in choosing machines and using

measuring skills in order to produce the final product. Safety is also a huge component of the course as they teach it along with use of each machine. The course ends with six student products. Student chose the product, plan a summary of their steps and embark on creating. Consumables are not supported by grant funding, but equipment such as a surface planer, is supported by the Perkins Grant. Mr. Manuel was on hand to share that when he observed students planning they were not yet using the equipment, but really mapping out their designs which helps to reduce the cost of wood. These aspects fit in with Vision of the Graduate as well. Mrs. Petitti asked about the enrollment and Mr. Amaturro mentioned that they have four female students currently and interest has been growing. The course has six sections of 18 students and is the most requested technical education course. Students get OSHA certification in a pre-apprenticeship program through the state. Ms. McNamee moved that we approve the Woods Technology I Curriculum Guide and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Curriculum Guide Update- Percussion Ensemble, Grades 9-12. Music teacher, Josh Murphy presented the curriculum which is aimed at training students and rehearsing their craft of percussion on a regular basis. Mr. DiScala, Department Chair was on hand to support Mr. Murphy and mentioned that the work that has been done is very high quality. They have four units: snare drum (learning the 26 rudiments,) mallet instruments (marimba, glockenspiel, vibraphones, etc,) accessory percussion (tambourines, maracas, etc.,) and world percussion instruments (Djembe drums and more). Portions of the course are also dedicated to preparing for the concerts. Dr. Iwanicki mentioned that the course might want to explore Eastern instruments from Asia as well. Mrs. Nuland moved that we approve the Percussion Ensemble Curriculum Guide and Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Curriculum Guide Approval- Introduction to Piano, Grades 9-12. Music teacher, Josh Murphy presented the curriculum which currently has four sections, two per semester, 18 students per section. Unit 1 is music literacy and reading music—items such as reading the music, sharps, flats and where to put their hands. Unit 2 is playing technique and performance, working through the red book. The course is differentiated by the students' abilities. Each student is moving at their level. The keyboards are new and were purchased with the Board funding. They have been able to allow more students to engage in this type of learning. Mrs. Nuland moved that we approve the Introduction to Piano Curriculum Guide and Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. New Text Approval: Saferstein, 2022. *Forensic Science: An Introduction*, 4th Edition High School Edition, MyLab Crime with Pearson eText. This is a new course for grade 11 and 12 students. Mostly 12 graders are enrolled in the 6 sections, 3 each semester. Class size ranges between 18 and 22. Mrs. Nuland asked if there are any photos that might alarm students or affect them negatively. Science teacher Jordan Miller shared that a letter was sent to all families in the beginning of the year which gave them the option of schedule changing if they had any concerns. The course is part police work, part law, and of course science. The text requested is the most modern currently offered while also corresponding with the student concepts. They have online resources that are also helpful. Mr. Miller is able to take content from the book and break it down to the level needed for the course. Guest speakers, such as one involved in the Innocence Project, are also able to come and speak with the students. Many other resources, videos, and websites are also used to supplement the information. Ms. McNamee moved that we approve the *Forensic Science:*

An Introduction, 4th Edition High School Edition, MyLab Crime with Pearson eText and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. New Text Approval: Franknoi, A., Morrison, D, and S. Woff et al. 2022. Astronomy2e OpenStax/Rice University eText. Teacher John Albers and Department Chair Tom Edwards joined us to share that the text for approval is written by experts in the field and is updated on a regular basis by scientists in real time. For example, the information is coming from the James Webb Telescope which is the top of the line technology source. Additions are supervised by Rice University. The book has accessibility features for students—highlight features, glossary, and read-to-you, for example. 16 students are taking the course this year and 20 for next semester. Mr. Albers shared that students seem to like the course. It is an 11-12th grade course with mostly seniors enrolled. Ms. McNamee moved that we approve the Astronomy2e OpenStax/Rice University eText and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. It was agreed that we will have the next Curriculum Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 at 8:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.