

**Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Board Curriculum Committee**

Minutes of October 5, 2023

Ms. Burnett called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the FNSBSD Administrative Center boardroom, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK. Committee member attended in person and via Zoom.

Members Present:

Rachel Blackwell
Leslie Greenfield
Loa Hubbard
Mariko Kinikin
Don Larson

Devra Norling
Renee Peterson
Suzanne Richards
Katina Sammons
Alexis Walker

Nonvoting Members:

Chane Beam
Melissa Burnett

Members Absent:

Matt Mertes
April Scott
William Voelkerding (excused)

Guests:

Tara DeVaughn

Committee Support:

Jen Morgan

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Norling moved to accept the October 5, 2023, agenda; Ms. Peterson seconded. Hearing no objection or comment, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Richards moved to accept the minutes from the September 7, 2023, meeting; Ms. Peterson seconded. Hearing no objection or comment, the minutes were approved.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Ms. DeVaughn briefly explained the proposed changes in draft one and then went over the decisions the writers came to for draft two after reviewing all public comment and teacher feedback. She drew attention to an updated list for life science, physical science, and science elective options, including Career and Technical Education courses. She also presented some pathway options for high school students. Discussion ensued for both topics.

ART, MUSIC, & WORLD LANGUAGE UPDATE

Ms. DeVaughn explained that this year is the research stage for Art, Music, and World Language, and gave an update. The district is sending three world language teachers to a conference in Anchorage next week, and it will provide the opportunity for them to speak with other world language teachers from across the state about national trends, standards, etc. At the next committee meeting, Ms. DeVaughn will have a parent and community survey available.

Ms. Kinikin mentioned she is often approached by secondary teachers looking for general music materials for an elective course like music appreciation. There is a need for these types of materials.

GENERAL COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

Ms. Kinikin asked if it is common practice to have Advanced Placement courses stacked with its counterpart class, for example AP Chemistry stacked with Chemistry in the same period with the same teacher. Mr. Beam stated that it depends on the school, but this can happen, especially at smaller schools.

Ms. Richards reiterated the need for reading points under curricular areas. When teachers look at the curriculum, there should be suggested supported reading activities in every curricular area.

Mr. Larson asked if there is any movement to use open source textbooks in the district. Ms. DeVaughn responded that yes, in the last few years, the district has looked into and considered this during materials selection.

Mr. Larson also stated that the University of Alaska Fairbanks has a biology syllabus available online, if the

curriculum writers are interested in looking at it.

Ms. Burnett mentioned this may be her last Board Curriculum Committee meeting as the chair person. The School Board is reorganizing all committees on October 30th. She thanked Mr. Beam for his help over the last year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Larson moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Richards seconded. Hearing no objection or further comment, the meeting was adjourned 6:26 p.m.