

# TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

## Curriculum Committee of the Trumbull Board of Education

### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 8:30 a.m.  
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

### Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Introduction. Call the meeting to order at 8:31.

#### Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair  
J.McNamee, BOE Member  
L.Nuland, BOE Member  
S.Iwanicki, Ed.D, administrative designee

- II. Public Comment.

No public comment regarding Curriculum was received.

- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting November 30, 2023. Ms. McNamee moved to approve the November 30<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- IV. New Business

- a. New Curriculum Guide- K-5 English as a Second Language – Mrs. Lisa Carino, the Department Chair of English as a Second Language (ESL,) gave a brief introduction of the terminology for students who are now called Multilanguage Learners (MLs,) while the curriculum and team are called ESL teachers. ESL teachers Arielle McGovern and Andrea Denkovich joined in order to showcase the tools and the way in which the curriculum was written. The Language Assessment Scale (LAS) Scores which shared; since implementation of our department goals and a new pull-out program using *National Geographic's Look Program*, students' scores have grown incrementally. The lessons within the curriculum target a skill that can be taught in 30 minutes. Smart Boards were installed each of the instructional spaces and lessons were created by the TPS ESL Department to teach the skills. Additionally, a clear written curriculum was created with instructional goals, key vocabulary, prioritized standards and assessments. Now the ESL Team works in more synchronicity than in the past. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the K-5 English as Second Language Curriculum Guide. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Revised Elementary Science Curriculum. Daniels Farm Teacher Kristen Fallon and K-5 Science Program Leader Liz Doherty presented the Updated Grade 2 Next Generation Curriculum Guide and the Updated Grade 3 Next Generation Curriculum Guide. Teachers from across the district helped to revise the curriculums to be sure it is teacher-driven and student focused. Ms. McNamee asked about state testing and it was shared that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) testing begins in Grade 5, but Grade 3 can take Interim Assessment Blocks. Miss Fallon shared that they were able to pilot the last version of the curriculum, take notes and observe for where changes were needed. One noticing was that more differentiation in assessment as well as condensing

lessons for certain topics were important to strengthening the curriculum. They also added supplemental materials to capture student inquiry and interest while building skills—collaboration group work, graphing, using maps were examples of skills that were captured in the revised curriculum. Mrs. Petitti asked if this was a new resource and it was shared that Carolina Biological is the resource used and is *not* new, but the updated curriculum is new in its revisions. Mrs. McNamee asked if there was any literacy components and it was shared that there are literacy articles imbedded in the units (literacy extensions,) and there are a lot of additional materials that allow for more skill building (maps, graphs, etcetera). Materials are also available in Spanish. Mrs. Petitti asked about extra time for teachers to review lessons before implementation. It was shared that there is a small amount of time now that Library is a special. Mrs. McNamee asked about the main changes and it was shared that differentiation was the main focus—being sure choices in teaching to get the material across with fidelity are available. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the Updated Grade 2 Next Generation Curriculum Guide, and Updated Grade 3 Next Generation Curriculum Guide and Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Mrs. Nuland moved to amend the Agenda to add Molly Dushay and a Science project called *Waves of Change* to the agenda. The project receives \$5,000 per school to work from January through December in the THS community toward conservation of local watersheds and Long Island Sound, and increase ocean literacy. Miss Dushay is not only a Science teacher, but also has a presence on LinkedIn and has been doing a lot of work with environmental Science. She came to THS as an intern with technology skills and Mr. Manuel, THS Principal, highlighted that Miss Dushay is always looking for ways to modernize and draw connections for our students above and beyond the traditional. None of the elements of this project are outside of the curriculum, but they compliment what we are doing and give the content a real-world application. Thirty (30) Connecticut schools applied and six (6) were accepted. Miss Dushay applied. Dept. Chair Tom Edwards and Mr. Manuel supported the application. Miss Dushay also added a component of Vision of the Graduate to the application. Trumbull High School's application was approved and we have received the designation as a Long Island Sound School (LISS). Later, Miss Dushay was talking with Kate Southard, an Accounting teacher, who mentioned they do a project looking at the sustainability of a company and social responsibility. Department Chair Christina Rusate also comes up with logos and t-shirts. Each of these educators are going to collaborate with Miss Dushay around sustainability to add a real-world perspective in collaboration with the LISS. Sacred Heart University, where Miss Dushay also teaches as an adjunct professor, has partnered to share with THS students the research that is being done around water conservation and study of the Sound. Ms. McNamee asked the program's focus—was it more community or interdisciplinary. Miss Dushay clarified that it is more community focused and tied to the United Nations and ocean literacy awareness; however, THS was able to do to both the community and the interdisciplinary focus. The Board members applauded the work and thanked Miss Dushay for informing them about the notable addition for our students.
- d. Reading Waiver Status Update- Dr. Iwanicki shared a brief overview of the highlights of the latest meeting with the State Department in which a team from Trumbull, led by K-5 Program Leader Kate Engeldrum, shared areas where our waiver did not meet the standard and why we believe we are meeting the standard. A second meeting is arranged for next week. Mrs. Petitti shared that she was at a recent CES meeting in which the waiver was discussed at length. Ms. McNamee added that while this topic is difficult, the discussion has led to some positive shifts for Trumbull as well. Mrs. Nuland added that monitoring students for their needs and identifying them for teaching and learning is important.

e. Future Meeting Date Discussion-

The Committee asked if we could look into Tuesdays as well. The 2024 meetings have been scheduled based on the past three years and when the committee could attend as well as when the curriculum is usually completed. It was shared that if additional meetings are needed, they will be scheduled and the committee could also meet before a Board meeting if needed. Below are the Committee dates and adjustments within the town charter guidelines will be made as needed.

- Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30
- Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30
- Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 (if needed)
- Thursday, Sept 12<sup>st</sup> 8:30
- Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30
- Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52am.