



## **Regional School District No. 17**

### **Board of Education**

### **Curriculum Subcommittee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

### **Chair: Dr. Kathleen Zandi**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Curriculum Subcommittee was held on January 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM via Google Meets.

**Subcommittee Members Present:** Chair Kathy Zandi, Nelson Rivera, Lisa Connelly, Corey Roberts

**Other Attendees:** Heather Pach, Jennifer Voegtli, Jennifer Miller, Heather Rigatti, Jennifer Beermuender, Dorothy Ventura, Heather Persson, Adam Apicella, Sean Gallagher

#### **1. Call to Order/Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Kathy Zandi.

#### **2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Lisa Connelly made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, and Nelson Rivera seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3. High School Opportunities Book- Adam Apicella**

Mr. Apicella presented the new Opportunities Book for the 2024/25 school year. It has been "beautified" with a new logo on the front and other visual updates. There is also the addition of Civics and Contemporary Issues, which is part of the History program. The graduation requirements have also been updated per new state law requirements, effective July 1, 2023.

#### **4. New Course Updates**

Heather Rigatti and Sean Gallagher provided updates on Computer Integrated Manufacturing, which is a new course being implemented in the current school year as part of the Project Lead the Way. Mr. Galalgher had positive feedback from students taking the course. He also shared that it can help prepare students for future internship opportunities.

Heather Rigatti gave updates on Contemporary Issues in Sports, including positive feedback from current students who have found the class informative and surprisingly challenging. This course has been very popular and will be considered for both the Fall and Spring offerings for the 2025/26 school year.

#### **5. MS Task Force Update**

Dorothy Ventura and Heather Persson presented the proposed new block schedule for the 2024/25 school year. The new schedule will allow teachers more flexibility and team meeting times.

#### **6. ELA Updates**

Jenn Beermuender presented on the Reading Waiver Approval for RSD17's program combining Heggerty, Foundations, Geodes, and Wit and Wisdom. Only 17 of 86 districts received full approval for the waiver. As a result of our approval, our program, with its compendium of resources, was added to the state's approved list. Many districts around the state have been reaching out to us for information regarding our reading programs, and Ms. Beermuender has met with 6 districts to date. KES will host a site visit on Thursday, January 11, 2024, with at least 4 districts confirmed to be in attendance (Woodbridge, Litchfield, North Branford, and East Lyme). The day will consist of a presentation on elements of our reading programs, classroom visits, and time to debrief with classroom teachers.

#### **7. Right to Read Grant**

Our Right to Read Grant was approved for \$64,000 over the course of two years and can only be spent on items related to the state-approved programs listed in our waiver. We will use it for professional development as well as Wit and Wisdom and Foundations materials for K-3 teachers and coaches.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Kathy Zandi adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.