

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction- The meeting was called to order at 8:32am.

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- Dr. Jessica Samuolis, from Colonial Drive in Trumbull attended to share her perspective that the Social Studies Curriculum K-12 is History-based and does not include the social sciences, specifically psychology, which can be highly beneficial for a number of reasons. She mentioned specifically topics regarding psychology as a science, such as: memory, how the brain works, and how it can impact stress. She emphasized that including such teaching prior to an optional high school elective would benefit many students. She urges the district to be innovative and consider a more specific and strategic integration of Psychology and the scientific method, K-12. Mrs. Nuland shared that she believes some of these topics are covered. Dr. Iwanicki offered to meet with her as well.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 1-10-24. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the minutes. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. New Business
- a. New Text Approval Kindergarten ELA: Perkins, C. 2017. Rapunzel. Simon and Schuster. K-5 ELA Program Leader, Kate Engeldrum, presented the text to add as supplemental text list for Kindergarten and Grade 1. It is a familiar text which covers the standards of reading for the literature, the retelling standard, and the standard in which students describe the illustrations of the story. It told with a backdrop of India. It will be used to compare and contrast with the original story. It told with a backdrop of India. It will be used to compare and contrast with the original story. Mrs. Petitti asked for clarification that this proposed addition would be a supplemental as it was submitted as a core. Mrs. Engeldrum clarified that it will be supplemental. Mrs. Petitti reiterated that it should be used to compare to the original. Ms. McNamee added that she feels that the Trumbull community would support the addition of another culture to the curriculum. She also shared it is a beautiful book and encouraged us to include other texts as well. Dr. Iwanicki shared that the team reviewed several other versions and chose this text based on age appropriateness. Mrs. Nuland made a motion to accept the K-1 text as a supplemental and move it forward. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Curriculum Course Revision Proposal: *12 Grade Creative Writing* – English teacher Kristen Kravecs, (accompanied by Department Chair Adeline Marzialo, and House Principal Ellen Spark,) presented to expand the ACP Creative Writing to an Honors level course. It would be a dual course in which the Honors level students would have additional assignments that extend their learning. Mrs. McNamee shared that she loved the idea as it would allow more students to take an upper level English course as well as the Mathematics and Science courses we already offer. There are not enough options in English as those other contents. Mrs. Marzialo added that in her dual course, Inquiry into Contemporary Issues, only one student has opted not to take the upper level course. Mrs. McNamee also added that the Department may want to think about offering AP as well. A short discussion about the cost was also shared. It was agreed that they will continue to monitor for interest and adapt as needed. The department has recognized that they offer Journalism 9-12 and looked for opportunities to expand offerings. They also recently added Story of Self as a new course. The Department will continue to reflect on needs to provide the best program as needed. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approved the Course Revision Proposal for Creative Writing for full Board approval. Mrs. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. New Text Approval: A.Ornstein, D.Levine, G. Gutek, and D. Vocke. 2013. *Foundations of Education*, 13th Edition, Cengage Learning.- Department Chair Miss Rusate presented for the department Diane Richards is teacher, who designed the new course UConn ECE course – If you Love It Teach It – which prepares futures educators. This text is suggested from UCONN for foundations in Education. Lots of opportunities for collaboration. Mrs. Petitti said there was a similar course in the past. It may have been Early Childhood. This is a broad spectrum of foundations of education. Mrs. Petitti noted that need teachers in the pipeline and adding this course and text is a great addition. Cengage, the publishing company may also provide e-materials which students can access on time. Mrs. Nuland motioned, Ms McNamee seconded and motion was unanimously approved.
- d. Mrs. Nuland motioned to changed the Agenda to add a discussion of course revision to Physics-C added to the curriculum. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Curriculum Course Revision Proposal: *ACP/AP Physics-C* – Department Chair Tom Edwards presented the course revision proposal. There were 32 students who requested the class and if every student got UConn tuition it is a little over a quarter of a million dollars in tuition. Mrs. Nuland motioned to have ECE to the ACP/AP Physics-C added to the curriculum. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.