

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 19th, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
Trumbull High School – Main Office Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction

The meeting was called to order 8:42 a.m.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

L.Nuland, BOE Member

II. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting May 16, 2024

Ms. McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024 Curriculum Committee meeting.

Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

a. New Text Proposal: *Chemins 2023 Levels 1, 2, and 3* French 1, 2, and 3

Department Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye, and teachers Shaun Leibskind and Joe Palamara presented. The teachers shared an enthusiasm for teaching the French language and communicated an increase in enrollment within French classes this year. The text book requested gives plentiful resources, is more user friendly, and has a focus on pronunciation that helps students in their language learning. It was added that it is more up-to-date in cultural pieces as well. The teachers provided examples of modern musical artists and highlights of French speaking countries around the world. Dept. Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye shared that the text is published by Vista Higher Learning. The department currently uses their texts for other courses such as the Italian classes, as well as Spanish AP and 5 Honors in the department. Ms. McNamee thanked the teachers for their organization of the Quebec trip and asked about future goals of the department in French. Mr. Leibskind shared they would like to offer an ECE course in the future and/or perhaps arrange a trip to France. He further expressed that we have students who are majoring in French in college and becoming teachers as well. Mrs. Petitti recognized the ways in which the text supports students and thanked the department for their support of the work. She was pleased to see that this work has resulted in higher enrollments, noting that there had been a decrease in enrollment in the past. Ms.

McNamee moved to accept the text *Chemins 2023 Levels 1, 2, and 3* French 1, 2, and 3. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Curriculum Guide Update- United States Political Systems (CP, ACP, Honors)

Grades 11-12

Department Chair Kathy Rubano and teachers Andrea Kremzar and Gary Guertin presented the new guide. The guide was updated to reflect modern times in events, new standards, and activities. United States Political Systems is a required course which lasts one semester. It was shared that students are required to earn a half credit of Civics for graduation, and this course fulfills that requirement. Mrs. Kremzar shared that the course focuses on the founding documents. Ms. McNamee asked about media literacy and Mrs. Kremzar showed that it is included in the last unit. Mrs. Petitti shared that some of the data activities are similar to activities she taught in courses. Ms. McNamee moved to approve the curriculum guide changes to the United States Political Systems (CP, ACP, Honors) Grades 11-12 and Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Curriculum Guide Update- Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, Grades 11-12

Department Chair Anne Rizza was joined by Karlen Shupp. They noted that post-COVID they wanted to update the guides texts to be more current. They also updated the guide for both grades 11 and 12. Ms. McNamee questioned the diversity of texts and asked that the department reflect on whether or not this guide ensures that student can see themselves in the works their studying. The educators agreed that they will continue to reflect on the inclusion of diverse authors. Mrs. Petitti asked about the class sizes this year and the impact on teaching. The meeting closed with a department announcement that several educators that were selected to present at the national conference for the National Council of Teacher of English (NCTE) this fall. Ms. McNamee moved to approve the curriculum guide changes to the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, Grades 11-12 and Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Assistant Superintendent's Curriculum Writing Update

Dr. Iwanicki shared an update on the status of the pilot materials for ELA in grades K-5. This pilot was communicated in the May Curriculum Committee meeting. The initial feedback from teachers is generally positive. Teachers are doing their best to learn about the new materials with support from literacy coaches as well as professional development that was offered at the beginning of the year. The Office of Teaching and Learning has received a handful of emails wondering about the materials or sharing research perspectives from families. The district has shared that the materials being used were vetted and selected by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

At the middle school level, general level mathematics classes are piloting two new math programs in grades 6, 7, and 8 for the first trimester. Our current program, Big Ideas, is up for renewal. The information from this pilot will be used to validate our current text or to bring forward to the curriculum committee a new text for purchase and full implementation.

Finally, Dr. Iwanicki shared that the district curriculum writing teams were very busy this summer. There are approximately 20 curriculum guides which the Curriculum Committee will be able to review this year and 14 different texts. She looks forward to reviewing these items with the committee over the course of this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.