

# TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the  
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 8:30 a.m.  
Trumbull High School Main Office Conference room

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order/Introduction

The meeting was called to order 8:37 am.

#### Members Present

L. Timpanelli, BOE Chair  
L.Nuland, BOE Member  
J.McNamee, BOE Member  
S.Iwanicki, Ed.D, administrative designee

#### Members Absent

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair

### II. Public Comment- No public comment was received.

### III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/24/2024 Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the minutes of 10/24/24. Mrs. Nuland seconded. Mrs. Timpanelli abstained. The motion passed.

### IV. New Business

- a. New Curriculum Guide, Pilot Update: *Grade 12 Story of Self*- English teacher, Mr. Kevin Pacelli presented the pilot update, mentioning that teacher, Jim McCaffery, was the original creator of the course. The two worked together to revise current pilot guide being used. Mr. Pacelli is teaching the course and getting a wonderful response from students. He shared it starts off as a hero's journey and then leads into philosophy that students discover through literature. Each unit focuses on an element of the hero's journey. Book groups, shared inquiry groups and answering unit essential questions are formats that the class engages in regularly. Reading analysis, written reflection, presentation and story-telling are also interwoven into units of the course. Mrs. Timpanelli asked about student experiences in transformation. Mr. Pacelli shared that students are more confident in their authentic writing as a result of the experience. Mrs. Nuland inquired about the course as a support for students in college. Mr. Pacelli shared that students do have a better understanding of themselves as a result of the course. Ms. McNamee asked about the development of the English skills for students. Mr. Pacelli said there is a concentration on taking evidence from the text and using it in their writing. Mrs. Timpanelli highlighted the outcomes of Unit 1 seemed to focus on Bloom's Taxonomy level skills such as definitions and using vocabulary. She noted that for seniors, more rigor would strengthen the course. Mrs. McNamee added that there should be inclusion of more sophisticated standards overall. Department Chair Mrs. Rizzo was on hand to address

questions as well. The department will be further crafting this course to bring a revised version of the guide later after it is fully piloted. The teachers are pleased that this initial pilot is resonating with the students and provides more opportunity for Grade 12 electives in English.

- b. Curriculum Guide Revision: *Grade 12 Poetry*- Department Chair Anne Rizzo was joined by Karlen Shupp and Mary Colombo. Mrs. Shupp began by explained that the Grade 12 Poetry guide has been revised to be an Honors/ACP option for students. She highlighted the differences between the levels of the course and the assessments. Each were crafted to differentiate demand of the course credit levels. Mrs. Timpanelli took notice the well-designed nature of the units. Ms. McNamee shared her observance of the inclusion of both traditional and non-traditional poets. Mary Colombo shared the different forms of poetry that students explore and the ways in which specific styles reflect their messages. Mrs. Nuland asked about the inclusion of song in the guide. Ms. Colombo described the manner in which the course uses song as a platform to study elements of poetry and language. The teachers also mentioned culminating performances associated with the course which students enjoy as a part of the learning process. Ms. McNamee motioned to pass the Grade 12 Poetry Guide to the Board for full approval. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Curriculum Guide Revision: *Grade 9 ACP Algebra I*- Math teachers Elizabeth Capobianco and Nicole Trommelen presented. Their goal in the revision was to add more applications to the course. A linear example was provided, such as when you are knitting a scarf it is going to grow “this much” in a day of knitting. As it is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade course, this gives them a foundation. Statistic examples that coordinate with the SAT were also added. They mentioned that making the course more high-interest and “less boring” was a driver for them during their revision. Dr. Iwanicki mentioned that the Defined Learning website may have resources to complement their units. Ms. McNamee motioned to pass *Grade 9 ACP Algebra I*- to the Board for full approval. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously
- d. Curriculum Guide Revision: *Grade 9 CP Algebra I*- Math teachers Elizabeth Capobianco and Nicole Trommelen shared that the CP course was reordered so that quadratics come before exponential functions. They revised the depth of the questions and added more support to the units. Mrs. Nuland motioned to pass *Grade 9 CP Algebra I*- to the Board for full approval. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously