

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting

December 17, 2024

Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Board members Melissa Finnigan, Maureen Sattan (via phone), Gianna Rossi, Debra Dudack, Superintendent Matt Dunbar (entered at 8:40 am), Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Principal Anthony Hibbert, Principal Kris Pryce, Assistant Principal Melissa Todd, Principal Ken Smith, Laura Tinnirella and Katie Thorner

Call to Order at 8:27am

Discussion of Word Language Program:

The current Department Head for grades 6-12, Katie Thorner, gave an overview of what the World Language looks like historically in Suffield Public Schools. Due to the retirement of a World Language teacher at the Intermediate level we have not had a World Language teacher in grades 3-5 in the past few years.

Our current Graduation Requirements are for 1 year of World Language credit.

At the middle school level, students are being exposed to both French and Spanish.

In looking forward, the department would like to see our schools offering more AP options at the high school level. They would also like to offer the option of French 1 and Spanish 1 for high school students, which could necessitate an increase in staff. They would like us to be able to initiate the test that would give students a Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma. They would also like to see the excitement of learning a different language being introduced at an earlier age so that children are exposed to it at the elementary level. Another possible adjustment could be to increase the Graduation Requirements to 2 years of a World Language credit as most colleges and universities require 2-3 years of a world language. They have also looked at the option to provide ASL (American Sign Language) for students who struggle with World Language as a spoken communication.

Further conversations are needed as far as what K-12 looks like for the World Language Department, the high school schedule and the addition/subtraction of World Language courses in the Program of Studies. The Policy Subcommittee would also need to take a look at Graduation Requirements if this is something that administrators want to advance.

Kris Pryce and Melissa Todd left the meeting at 9:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25am.