Minutes
Special Meeting
Curriculum Committee
Thursday, July 31, 2025; 12:30 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Board Committee Members Present	**Absent**
Alice Jones, Chair	N/a
Carol Ann Brown	
Jim Crocker (Zoom)	
Michael Carbonneau	

Also Present
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Kari McCarthy, Science Teacher
Katie Gorman, Agriscience Teacher
John Dominello, Culinary Arts Teacher

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

II. Curriculum Documents for Approval

A. Culinary Arts I/II

- Semester-based culinary arts course for grades **9-12** that requires no new resources or textbooks
- Course starts with basics including knife skills and sanitation, progresses through baking methods, and ends with handmade pasta as bridge to culinary arts two
- Curriculum incorporates cultural exploration through food units covering rice, potatoes, and vegetables from different world regions
- Program uses math-based ratios for cooking instruction and connects to other subjects like chemistry through concepts like emulsions
- Course includes hospitality and table service components beyond just cooking skills

Motion
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the curricula as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curricula will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

B. Farm to Table

- Semester course combining greenhouse/garden work with kitchen preparation

APPROVED

- Students experience complete seed-to-plate process while learning safety and sanitation for both greenhouse and kitchen environments
- Program includes foraging activities
- Students disassemble and rebuild entire greenhouse systems annually, including NFT tables and vertical gardens
- Program donates substantial produce to local food bank
- Course serves 160 senior citizen meals twice yearly in March and week after Thanksgiving, expanding from original 40 in-person capacity

Motion
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

C. Leadership Development

- Semester course for juniors and seniors to develop leadership skills rather than assuming leadership is innate
- Course uses FFA organizational structure and includes public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and community service opportunities
- Students participate in Career Development Events (CDEs) including prepared and extemporaneous public speaking competitions
- Course includes capstone project where students demonstrate growth in identified leadership areas
- Uses Habitudes inspirational guide materials provided by FFA rather than traditional textbook

Motion
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

D. Animal Assisted Therapy

- Half-year course for grades 10-12 focusing on intersection of animal science and public health
- Course teaches distinction between emotional support animals, therapy animals, and service animals to address public misconceptions
- Students can pursue Pet Partners certification
- Connecticut's only school offering this specialized curriculum statewide
- Course addresses responsible animal ownership and proper service animal protocols
- Pet Partners organization donates required Handler's Guide textbooks annually at no cost

Motion
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

APPROVED

E. 7th Grade Science

- OpenSciEd curriculum focused on chemical reactions as overarching seventh grade theme
- Course starts with periodic table, atoms, elements, and molecules foundation before advancing to OpenSciEd units
- Program uses anchoring phenomena to drive inquiry-based learning with claim-evidence-reasoning framework
- Community partnerships include military parent presenting MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) experiences and **2** annual field trips to Flander Nature Center
- Flander trips include spring maple syrup production and end-of-unit pond sampling activities
- Middle school achieved highest 8th grade NGSS assessment scores in school history under current program
- Course maintains heterogeneous grouping and builds on 6th grade foundations while preparing for 8th grade advancement

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia
Paige Board
Clerk
Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

"Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"

APPROVED