

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026
Trumbull High School Conference Room

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m.

Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair
J. McNamee, BOE member
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D. administrative designee
L. Intemann, Social Studies Department Chairperson

Members Absent

L. Nuland, BOE Member

- II. Public Comment ~ One public comment was received regarding “A Christmas Carol”; the parent felt that the novel is rooted in Christian religious themes and symbolism that may not reflect the diverse beliefs and backgrounds of all students. Dr. Iwanicki responded to the parent that the middle school curriculum writing team discussed considering alternatives this summer. They noted that while the story is set during the Christmas season, it is not a religious text, nor is it taught for religious purposes. The focus of classroom discussion and instruction centers on universal human themes such as personal transformation, compassion for others, moral decision-making, and the impact of individual choices on the community. The committee shared perspectives on teaching the work, length of time, and any word choice that could affect students.
- III. Approve Minutes ~ Mrs. Pettit motioned to approve the 10/30/25 meeting minutes; Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. New Business
- a. **New Text request: Comparative Government: Stories of the World.** Social Studies Department Chair, Libbi Intemann, explained that the current text book has been in use since 2015. It follows the five-unit structure of the Course and Exam Description (CED), covering all required topics (1.1–5.13) and the six core countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

New Text request: Comparative Government: Stories of the World (continued) Mrs. Intemann furthered that each chapter is clearly organized by AP topic codes and includes key vocabulary, learning objectives, and practice questions modeled after the AP exam format. Ms. McNamee asked if PSAT data is reviewed so that certain students might be approached to make sure they are taking the class. Mrs. Pettiti questioned the timing of the class vs. the testing date. A short discussion ensued. Mrs. Pettiti motioned to move the new textbook, Comparative Politics Today: A World View, the 11th Edition to the full Board for approval. Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Curriculum Guide Update for Comparative Government & Politics, Advanced Placement.** Social Studies Chair, Mrs. Intemann also reviewed the important updates of the revised curriculum guide with the new text. She explained that Mr. John LaBarca had crafted the guide and also taught the course for several years. It was relayed that the guide is not only about facts, but is also collaborative, includes in-depth exploration, role-playing, and more. Dr. Iwanicki noted that Mr. LaBarca did an excellent job developing the various units, embedded academic vocabulary, including fully vetted academic hyperlinks, and addressing every VOG standard. Ms. McNamee mentioned that the text and guide are very balanced. Ms. McNamee motioned to recommend the revised Comparative Government & Politics, Advanced Placement Curriculum Guide to the full Board for approval; Mrs. Pettiti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Sub-Committee Dates** ~ Mrs. Pettiti noted that it is important to discuss the dates and that the committee also needed to recognize the need to be flexible at times with the many roles of the committee members. Ms. McNamee noted that the later time worked better. After discussion, the upcoming dates were agreed to as follows:
- Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

It was discussed that additional meetings will be scheduled if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW TEXT REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS**

Date Submitted: 7/16/2025

Title of Text: Comparative Government : Stories of the World

Authors: Karen Waples

Publisher: bfw Publishers

Year Published: 2023

ISBN Number: 978-1-319-44323-8

Core¹ or Supplemental: Core

Course: AP Comparative Government

Grade Level:

(If applicable) Replaces text: Powell, Jr. G. Bingham, Russell Dalton, and Kaare Strom. Comparative Politics Today: A World View. 11th Edition. New York: Pearson, 2015.

Rationale for adopting new text: Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course is designed specifically to align with the College Board's AP Comparative Government & Politics Course and Exam Description . It follows the five-unit structure outlined by the College Board, with each chapter directly tied to specific topics

Text Description:

The Waples AP Comparative Government textbook is intentionally designed to align with the College Board's AP Comparative Government & Politics framework. It follows the five-unit structure of the Course and Exam Description (CED), covering all required topics (1.1–5.13) and the six core countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Each chapter is clearly organized by AP topic codes and includes key vocabulary, learning objectives, and practice questions modeled after the AP exam format. The textbook also emphasizes essential comparative skills such as argumentation, data interpretation, and source analysis. Its structure and content make it a reliable and effective tool for guiding students toward success on the AP exam.

Strengths: The Waples AP Comparative Government textbook offers a well-structured, student-friendly resource that aligns closely with the AP Curriculum and Exam Description (CED). Its storytelling approach humanizes the six core countries—China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom—making abstract political concepts more engaging and accessible. The text includes well-designed visuals such as charts, maps, and infographics that support comparative analysis. It effectively builds foundational skills in sourcing, data interpretation, and political vocabulary, and its accessible language makes it suitable for high school learners preparing for the AP exam.

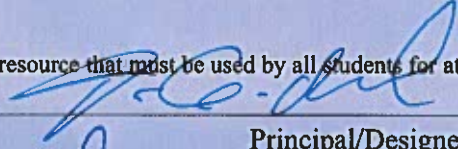
Weaknesses: Data from global indices is often summarized rather than critically evaluated, and instructors may find it necessary to supplement with more current, in-depth sources and extended readings to provide a richer, more critical perspective on global politics.

Submitted by: Libbi Intemann

"Core" refers to a resource that must be used by all students for attainment of course goals.

Revised 7/2016

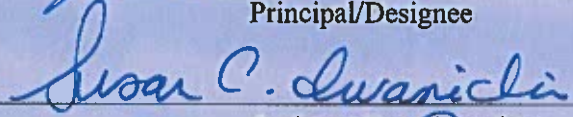
Reviewed by:



Principal/Designee

1/8/26

Date



Assistant Superintendent

1/8/26

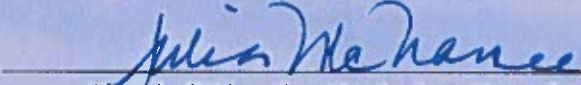
Date



Board of Education Curriculum Committee Member

1/8/26

Date



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