

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
January 23, 2026
Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Assistant Superintendent Norbut, Maureen Sattan, Melissa Finnigan, Gianna Rossi, Greg Sparzo, Brian Fry

NOTE: Members of Faculty and Staff entered and exited the meeting depending on each item of the agenda. Please refer to each section below for the name of additional attendees at that portion of the meeting.

Call to Order at 8:31 a.m.

Discussion of Suffield High School Wind Ensemble Course Proposal: (Corey Killian and Principal Anthony Hibbert were in attendance)

Corey Killian, the Band Director explained the importance of having a wind ensemble for the current SHS band. This group would be selected based on their skill level and would be removed from the overall Symphonic Band. The numbers of students coming up to the high school next year with Intermediate level skills in the Wind instruments supports this change. Though the numbers would decrease in the overall Symphonic Band, it would allow the instruction to be more focused for the level of the students and would continue through their time at SHS. Mr Hibbert agreed with the assessment and was in support of adding this course for the upcoming course selection and Program of Studies. The addition of this course will not contractually affect the current staff and it also is not projected to impact the current courses in Music since most are selected by students that aren't currently in the Band program. The committee was in support of this additional course.

Textbook Adoption Request for AP Spanish: (Tara Smith and Principal Anthony Hibbert were in attendance)

Tara Smith, the current AP Spanish teacher, discussed the need for a textbook upgrade. She is currently teaching the course after attending the AP Summer Institute and has discovered that the current textbook we are using does not cover the current content on the AP Exam and she needs to supplement with new material in order to prepare the students for success on the exam. The new textbook, *Temas + AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam Preparation WorkText*, was selected by the staff and it exceeded all of the selection criteria. The last textbook was published in 2014 and is no longer adequate for the current exam structure. The new *Temas* textbook also has an online component that is constantly being updated. Mr. Hibbert was in favor of purchasing the textbook for 10 student textbooks/digital licenses and for a subscription lasting 6 years totalling \$2759.83. The committee was in support of this textbook purchase.

26-27 Pilot of New ELA Materials at Suffield Middle School: (Samantha Schraeger, Tina Reiser and Principal Ken Smith were in attendance)

Since the update of the ELA program in K-5th grade has been implemented, focus has been placed on the current ELA curriculum at the middle school. Mrs. Schraeger (ELA Coach for 6-12) and Mrs. Reiser (Reading Interventionist), along with the SMS ELA Department, reviewed our current ELA curriculum at the middle school level and selected Amplify ELA to pilot in 2026/2027 in grades 6-8 with the support of Principal Smith. The Amplify ELA program is aligned with the Science of Reading, as is the district's elementary literacy program, Amplify CKLA. Unlike Amplify CKLA, which is being used in grades K-5, this program, in alignment with the state standards, would work on a 100 day pathway allowing grades to continue the remaining days of the year for units of study that align well with the state standards and have been proven to support high student engagement and learning outcomes. Staff will be working this summer to review the curriculum and scope and sequence of units of study. Collaboration with the Library Media Specialist will continue and the team will prioritize units that have cross-disciplinary connections. The cost of the pilot program is \$7865.76. A decision will be made and communicated to the committee next year prior to the budget discussions in November/December based on pilot results.

Gianna Rossi left the meeting at 9:48am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.