Minutes
Special Meeting
Curriculum Committee
Thursday, January 22, 2026; 2:15 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Board Committee Members Present
Alice Jones, Chair
Jim Crocker
Michael Carbonneau

Absent
Carol Ann Brown

Also Present
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Jamie O'Dell
Ray Robillard
Marisa Christoff
Devon Bares
Jamie Lisevick
Kristen Pisano
Kyle Tehan
Katie Blake
Cate Lyman
Connor Mooney

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I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m.

II. Curriculum Documents for Approval

A. 8th Grade Math

- Students will expand upon the study of rates and proportional relationships in an introduction to linear functions and an introduction to solving systems of linear equations
- Students will further develop the concept of a function in mathematics through analyzing tables, graphs, and equations. Students also work with bi-variate data and learn to analyze associations using scatterplots and fitted lines for numerical data and tables, and bar graphs for categorical data
- Students will learn about the volume of cylinders, cones and spheres, rules of exponents, scientific notation and are introduced to irrational numbers with the application of the Pythagorean Theorem.
- No new textbooks or additional purchases needed since district has been using Illustrative Math for a couple years

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve 8th Grade Math curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

B. Digital Music

- Received $10,000 grant that funded mixing board for drama department and 20 digital audio workstations
- Students in digital music focus on beginner piano fundamentals, review of music literacy fundamentals including note duration, treble/bass clef note reading, time signatures
- Students also focus on music technology, creating projects that demonstrate music concepts including simple songs, ostinato, theme and variations, rounds, partner songs, 12-bar blues, and music of movies, television, and video games, along with DJ Compositions

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the Digital Music 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. Accounting I/Accounting II

- Curriculum updated to include vision of learner attributes with no major content changes
- Both courses cover complete accounting cycles—Accounting 1 for service business, Accounting 2 for merchandise business
- Students' progress from journalizing transactions through financial statements using Excel for realistic real-world practice
- Each course includes culminating simulation where students do accounting for fictitious business over full fiscal year (first 6 months at midterm, second 6 months at final)
- Accounting 2 includes QuickBooks training for students potentially running their own businesses
- Former students who became CPAs reported the courses provided strong prep for college freshman accounting

Motions

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

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the Accounting II 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. Marketing II

- Course covers Advanced Marketing topics including management, leadership, the supply chain, market research, pricing and entrepreneurship.
- Students run the school store as hands-on business experience
- Major curriculum component integrates DECA competitions where students create business plans, promotional plans, or advertising campaigns and present to industry judges

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- DECA conference happens in February each year

Motion

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

E. Algebra 2 with Financial Concepts

- Students in this full-year Algebra 2 with Financial Applications course will further their study of Algebra through real-world financial applications
- The course covers many Algebra 2 topics from the perspective of financial applications
- Students will experience the interrelatedness of mathematical topics, find patterns, make conjectures, and extrapolate from known situations to unknown situations
- This course offers students multiple opportunities to use, construct, question, model, and interpret financial situations through symbolic, algebraic, graphical, geometric, and verbal representations
- This course is an alternative to taking Algebra 2

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the Algebra 2 with Financial Concepts curriculum as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The curriculum will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

F. Geometry

- Geometry is a full-year course designed to increase the students' ability to reason intuitively, inductively, and deductively as they explore two and three-dimensional aspects of the world around them.
- Students learning in this course is investigative and cooperative with a heavy emphasis on data gathering, conjecture, and validation. Topics of study include congruence, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, solid geometry, coordinate geometry, circles, and probability.
- The honors course is designed and implemented so that the depth of the topics discussed in the course surpass that of the college prep course

Motion

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

G. AP Psychology

- The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes.
- Students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health.
- Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and

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effectively communicate ideas.

Motion

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

III. New Courses for Approval

A. Computer Aided Drafting 1/CTSTATE 1330 and 2/CTState2200

- Presented were two CT State dual enrollment courses as continuation of middle school advanced manufacturing program through Goodwin University
- Committee emphasized these jobs are unfilled across Connecticut and courses provide pathways for students who may not pursue traditional college while also supporting students going into engineering programs

CT State 1330

- In partnership with Ed Advance's College and Career Accelerator program and CTState, Nonnewaug will be offering 2D CD (AutoCAD).
- The objective of this course is to give the student a basic understanding of Computer Aided Drafting using the latest version of AutoCAD.
- The student will learn drafting fundamentals for engineering through projects from various technical disciplines. Topics include drawing setup, text, dimensioning, layering systems, blocks, printing and plotting, orthographic and isometric, and section views as well.
- Upon finishing this course, students should be able to prepare drawings in their own engineering disciplines.

CT State 2200

- In partnership with Ed Advance's College and Career Accelerator program and CTState, Nonnewaug will be offering Parametric Design (3D AutoCAD).
- This is an introduction to computer-based design using SolidWorks® parametric 3D CAD software.
- The course focuses on Parametric Modeling and topics include: Design Intent and Process, Sketching Techniques, Model Development Techniques, Process-Specific Modeling, Design Changes, Editing Models, Patterning and Assembly Techniques.
- Students will participate in mostly individual and some group design projects as appropriate.

Motions

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the CTSTATE 1330 course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The course will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Michael Carbonneau to accept/approve the CTSTATE 2200 course as presented, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously. The course will be brought to the full board for review and approval.

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B. An American History of Rock and Soul

- Course teaches American history through music, addressing **3**-credit history graduation requirement
- With World Civ, US History, and Civics/Government accounting for **2.5** credits, this provides another half-credit option
- Course examines rock and roll across decades (50s, 60s, etc.) and how music intertwines with political, economic, and social movements
- Course offers cultural history approach rather than traditional political history, reaching students interested in music who previously lacked history options

Motion

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

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 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"

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