Minutes
Special Meeting
Curriculum Committee
Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 2:30pm
Central Office Conference Room

Board Committee Members Present
Alice Jones, Chair
Carol Ann Brown
Jim Crocker (via phone)

Absent
Mike Carbonneau

Also Present
Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching and Learning
Nicole Cowles, Math
Katy Aseltine, English
Melissa Hodges, Science
Rebecca Pope, Science
Cate Lyman, Math/Science IL
Mike Hadoulis, Culinary Arts

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm

II. Curriculum Documents for Approval

A. English 9 (Revision)

- This curriculum was streamlined from **7** units to **4** by combining several units and removing unit 5
- Unit 1 focuses on SAT skills — grammar, Greek and Latin roots, and short story analysis — to give students a writing and grammar framework early
- Grammar is now taught without a textbook, drawing on Khan Academy and IXL, aligned to what's actually assessed on the SAT (commas, apostrophes, semicolons, conjunctions, transition words)
- A vocabulary pilot is running — short daily exercises (5–10 minutes) built around Greek and Latin roots and high-frequency words

Motion
A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the English 9 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

B. Algebra 1A

- The full Algebra 1 curriculum is split across **2** years (1A and 1B), giving students more time to build foundational skills
- The course is geared towards intervention students and those students needing more foundational support based on NWEA scores. Those student coming from out of district will take a placement test to determine the appropriate class
- Units cover statistics, solving equations, linear functions, and inequalities — roughly the first half of Algebra 1
- Completing 1A/1B does not cut students off from advanced math — they can still go on to geometry, are required to take Algebra 2, and can continue to more advanced math

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the Algebra 1A 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. Chemistry: Matter and Energy

- This new half-year course was created to meet the chemistry graduation requirement for students whose math skills won't support success in traditional algebra-heavy chemistry
- The course is lab-heavy — roughly half the calendar is lab work — because the NGSS exam itself is structured around analyzing lab data
- Content covers NGSS topics not included in integrated science, specifically equilibrium and reaction rate

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the Chemistry: Matter and Energy 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. AP Physics I

- This curriculum was built directly from the College Board course and exam description (CED), adding assessments, labs, and assignments at AP rigor and mapping NGSS standards and district Vision of Learner attributes to each unit
- The curriculum was written last summer but held for a year so the teacher could ensure that the content would meet students' need

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the AP Physics 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. 6th Grade Math

- The 6th grade program bridges elementary and middle school math, covering ratios and rates, geometry, fractions, decimals, negative numbers, and algebraic reasoning; all building toward proportional relationships in 7th and 8th grade
- A Region 14 Google site provides family-facing videos organized by unit cluster (K–8); this is the first year it runs K–8 after expanding from K–5 last year
- The new math double block is live this year which will be reflected in the implementation guides being built this year to map the lesson-a-day structure to the double block format
- The double block allows students to do the warm-up, task, and synthesis in the first half, then return after a break for lesson synthesis and independent/small-group practice, rather than compressing everything into 45 minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the 6th 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.

F. 7th Grade Math

- This curriculum continues building on the skills learned in 6th grade
- 7th grade deepens proportional relationships using rational numbers (fractions, decimals, mixed numbers in context), adds geometry, percent reasoning, data, and arithmetic with negative numbers
- Algebraic reasoning expands to include signed numbers and multi-step equations

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Jim Crocker to accept/approve the 7th 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.

G. 7th Grade Advanced Math

- Advanced 7th covers the full 7th grade curriculum plus roughly half of the 8th grade curriculum, integrating 8th grade topics (rigid transformations, similarity, intro to slope and linear relationships) at logically connected points rather than tacking them on at the end
- Students do a year and a half of math in one year, setting them up for Advanced 8th grade

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the 7th Grade Advanced 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.

Approved

H. 8th Grade Advanced Math

- Advanced 8th finishes the remaining 8th grade topics and covers Algebra 1 — another year and a half of content — while also reviewing all 8th grade standards for SBAC, since SBAC tests 8th grade standards, not Algebra 1
- High school placement happens in late February/early March; a midterm is still given at the middle school level specifically to have data ready for counselor placement meetings

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the 8th Grade Advanced 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.

I. Nutrition (6th Grade Culinary)

- Nutrition is an introductory 6th grade culinary course covering food safety, nutrition (5 food groups, diet analysis), and weekly kitchen projects
- Students maintain a hydroponics garden, harvest herbs, and create recipes from what they grow
- The class also contributes to community-based events (e.g., cookies for music concerts and drama productions)

Motion

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

J. What's Cooking (7th Grade Culinary)

- 7th grade builds on 6th grade with deeper food safety, mathematical equivalence through recipe conversion, and a heavy emphasis on baking to develop the discipline of following a recipe precisely
- The trimester culminates in a cooking competition where students present to outside judges

Motion

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

K. Tasty Treats (8th Grade Culinary)

- 8th grade continues to build on previous year's skills
- Vertical alignment with our high school counterpart has been a deliberate focus — rubrics are written in the same framework, with the middle school version one level lower, so students arrive at the high school already familiar with expectations

Approved

- The middle school and high school culinary students collaborate during the year. The middle school hosts an annual Senior Center Fall Harvest Luncheon and are joined by the high school students; then later in the year, the middle school students travel to the high school and help with the "Soup and a Show" event at NHS
- The trimester culminates in a cooking competition where students present to outside judges

Motion

A motion was made by Alice Jones and seconded by Carol Ann Brown to accept/approve the Tasty Treats 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. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly Effes
Board Clerk
Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Kimberly Effes, Board Clerk
Minutes created with assistance of Circleback AI"

Approved