



CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 18, 2017
Seymour High School
Library-Media Center
3:30 p.m.

- COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kristen Harmeling
Jim Garofolo
Ed Strumello
- OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
James Freund, SHS Principal
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal
Tara Yusko, SHS Assistant Principal
Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal
Ernie DiStasi, SMS Assistant Principal
Mary Sue Feige, BES Principal
Meaghan Cleveland, SHS Teacher
Dan Sorge, SMS Teacher
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:41 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. **Summer Sharing of documents:**

Elementary ELA, MS Math, HS ELA-Vonda Tencza, Bernadette Hamad, and Tara Yusko

Mrs. Tencza passed out hard copies of the curriculum that was updated over the summer. She stated that all documents will eventually be uploaded to the website. Mrs. Feige stated that the teachers have embraced the Lucy Caulkin's Writing Units of Study. The Lucy Caulkin's Reading Units of Study were introduced for the teachers to review this year and use as an option. Many teachers are already using it as a resource. This curriculum and resources are more rigorous than the previous curriculum. Next year the reading piece will be added for those not already using it. Mr. Strumello asked if we are locked into the Lucy Caulkin's Program. Mrs. Tencza assured him it is a resource. Mr. Garofolo is encouraged by the changes seen in the curriculum. The middle school in conjunction with Traci Healy, Math Consultant, put together an extremely rigorous math program aligned to common core standards complete with performance tasks. The grade level partners are meeting and working together to make sure they are giving the same performance tasks and assessments. Mrs. Harmeling asked for a definition of performance tasks. Mrs. Hamad said it was more like a project. Mrs. Yusko started out by showing the current HS ELA curriculum in relation to the updated curriculum. This is a more thematic approach and was worked on by the entire English department. Mr. Garofolo asked if the time line was firm or allowed for some teacher flexibility. Mrs. Yusko said it was a suggested time frame. Mrs. Harmeling asked how the books were picked and if for example all 9th graders read the same books. Mrs. Yusko said currently all students read the same books but she would like to encourage the teachers to use more flexibility

with the reading material. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if budgetary constraints were going to impact curriculum work going forward. Mrs. Tencza said it could, that any way you do curriculum there is going to be a cost associated with it. Mr. Garofolo suggested we have the funds put in the budget and locked for writing curriculum.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling /sec. Mr. Garofolo) recommend to the full board the adoption of the Elementary ELA, MS Math, and HS ELA as presented by the administration.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

B. High School Curriculum Revisions

1. Yoga

Mrs. Cleveland would like to have this revised to be titled "Health and Wellness" which would include Eastern vs Western Medicine, Holistic Medicine as well as meditation and yoga.

2. Injury Care

Mrs. Cleveland would like to have this revised to include more in depth training on why we use certain methods to treat injuries. She would like to make this more of an introductory course for those interested in the Athletic Training or Physical Therapy fields after high school.

3. Construction Systems 1 and 2

Mr. Lucke has been in touch with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. If we were to use their books and curriculum our students upon completion of Construction Systems 2 would be granted 1000 hours toward their apprenticeship. The current training facility in Connecticut is located in Yalesville. This is a high wage, high skill, and high demand job in Connecticut right now. The total cost for this course would be approximately \$3500.00. Mr. Lucke stressed that all lesson plans, curriculum, and materials are included in this proposal. He would also like to do a community outreach for donations of supplies. Mrs. Harmeling said perhaps a blanket letter could be provided for Mr. Lucke to allow this. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if there were any tradesman in the Valley that were part of this union and would there be any conflict with another union; or if another company or union offered something similar. Mrs. Harmeling felt this should be tabled until Mr. Lucke looked into the union aspect of the program as well as other companies. Mr. Strumello suggested that another curriculum committee meeting be held the first week of January so that this issue could be revisited in a timely manner.

4. World Civilization

Mr. Freund says this needs to be updated as state standards have changed.

5. Physics

Mr. Freund would like the physics curriculum to be updated and developed further.

6. Makerspace Course (from half year to full year)

This change would allow for the course to go from .5 to 1 credit. This would be a post CADD course with 3D assembling and testing. This would allow students to actually put components together and present a finished project to a panel of engineers.

7. Portrait Studio Combination

This curriculum would combine the more advanced art classes into 1 course allowing more students to reach the AP Art class.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling /sec. Mr. Garofolo) recommend to the full board the revisions to the curriculum as presented by administration with the exception of #3 Construction Systems I and II which will be revisited in January.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

C. Upcoming for NEASC-Jim Freund

1. AP Macroeconomics
2. AP Art, Music/Choir
3. French 1-3
4. Health/PE

Mr. Strumello stepped out of the meeting. Mr. Freund explained that in the NEASC report these courses were singled out as needing curriculum put in our current template by October 1, 2018.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo /sec. Mrs. Harmeling) recommend to the full board the formatting of curriculum for AP Macroeconomics, AP Art, Music/Choir, French 1-3, and Health/PE as to allow completion of the curriculum by 10.1.18.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo

D. Middle School Science Update-Ernie DiStasi

Mr. Strumello rejoined the meeting. Mr. DiStasi said the middle school has joined a consortium with CREC and 57 school districts to update the Science curriculum. This allows us full access to the NGSS Curriculum that is already written. CREC is sending a consultant to work with our teachers on the implementation of the program. Mrs. Tencza mentioned that in January Grade 5 teachers will join the program.

E. New Course Proposals

1. Middle School-Replace Computer Class with Personal Finance

Mr. Sorge would like to replace the Computer Class with Personal Finance as a shift to college and career readiness as well as a bridge to the Seymour High School program. Technology would be interwoven throughout the program and would be applicable to every student. Mrs. Harmeling was in favor of having all students at the middle school start this program next year instead of rolling it out 1 year at a time. Mr. Sorge was on board with that idea. Mrs. Hamad said she would grant Mr. Sorge some release time to write the curriculum.

2. High School-Robotics (Half year course)

Mr. Lucke said this would be a self-contained class and would impact approximately 30 students. The total cost would be \$21,056.48. He plans on writing the Perkins Grant to cover this cost next year. This course would be offered 2nd semester next year to make sure the funds were in place to support the program.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling /sec. Mr. Garofolo) recommend to the full board the approval of the SMS Personal Finance class for grades 6-8 as well as the SHS Robotics class contingent on grant funding.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

F. Elevation of CTE courses tested with CTE Exam to Honors Level-Paul Lucke

Mr. Lucke would like the following classes elevated to honors level and awarded quality points. Accounting II, Entrepreneurship, CADD II, Alternative Energy III, Construction Systems II, Personal Finance II. Mr. Freund said many students that could greatly benefit from these courses that want to go into architecture and engineering don't take them because they prefer to take a class that has quality points.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling /sec. Mr. Garofolo) recommend to the full board the approval of the elevation of the following classes to the honors level Accounting II, Entrepreneurship, CADD II, Alternative Energy III, Construction Systems II, Personal Finance II.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

Mr. Strumello is going to make the recommendation to Mrs. Magri that these items be moved up in the regular board of education agenda. He wants everyone to be aware of the outstanding things that are happening in the schools. He suggested administration compose an article for the Valley Independent Sentinel.

B. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Tencza wanted the board to be aware that the TEAM program for beginning teachers is still going to be mandated by the state but they are no longer going to fund it. This could impact the budget by an average \$4000-\$5000 a year in addition to covering mentor stipends.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo /sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle