Seymour Board of Education
Curriculum and Technology Committee Minutes
Seymour Middle School
October 4, 2021
6:00-7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling
Jim Garofolo
Kristen Bruno

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Susan Compton, Superintendent
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Jodie Roden, SMS Principal
Cathy Federowicz, SHS Math Teacher
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk
Jim Freund, SHS Principal
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal
Dave Willadsen, SHS Social Studies Teacher

I. CALL TO ORDER
A. The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:06 PM

II. PUBLIC COMMENT
Public Comment provides the opportunity for the public to make a comment. It is not a dialogue between the Board and the public. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a topic to the agenda. If questions are posed that the Chairman is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairman's Comments portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and no longer than 3 minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.
NONE

III. INFORMATION
A. Update on resources being piloted
The high school has been piloting two math resources. "Get More Math" and "IXL". "IXL" has been utilized at the middle school so students are already familiar with it. Mr. Lucke, says it is very helpful having additional digital resources. Ms. Harmeling asked if this replaced textbooks. Mr. Lucke stated it is supplemental materials and will hone in on student weaknesses. Dr. Compton says she is very familiar with this program as she has used it before; these are great at closing gaps. Mr. Lucke also informed the committee that they had gone to APEX learning instead of Engenuity, saving the district $35,000. This program is supplied by the state and is used for credit recovery and progress monitoring. It comes in forty five different languages making it user friendly for the ELL students.

B. Spanish I re-take option
Mr. Freund wanted the committee to be aware that they were going to start offering an option for those students who would like to repeat Spanish I. This is for students that finished the middle school Spanish program but feel they need another year to get a firm foundation, or for students that are re-entering the high school. Prior grades in Spanish will be reviewed before this option is allowed. The elective transfer credit would not be awarded to any student choosing this option.

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
A. Graduation Requirements
Mr. Freund offered for consideration the reduction of the math requirement from four credits to three based on the new state flexibility recommendation. They would like to increase STEM requirement from two to three. Ms. Harmeling requested the attached graduation requirement chart be included with the minutes.
a. Motion: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to bring to full board for approval the recommendation to change the number of math credits required for graduation from four to three credits to align with CT State recommended flexibilities.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

B. Discussion- Program of Studies 2021-2022 New Course Offerings

Mr. Garofolo wanted to modify this motion to delay the discussion of the mandated CT African-American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino Studies course until the committee had more time to review the curriculum document. Dr. Compton reminded the board that the legislature had already passed this course. Ms. Tencza said that she was having a Zoom meeting to discuss this course with CREC next week and she would be happy to send the invitation to the committee for them to participate. This is a “statewide model curriculum” and they expect it to be taught as such using their curriculum.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to table this part of the Program of Studies to review the curriculum before we make a recommendation.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo

NOT IN FAVOR: Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling

Mr. Garofolo wanted the record to state that he is not in favor of voting on this motion, as he will be disposed to vote no on this motion if the two topics cannot be split. Ms. Bruno asked when this course would be taught. Ms. Tencza said, “it would start next year as there is an extensive training being offered by CREC”. Ms. Harmeling asked if this was a required class. Ms. Tencza said it is required for us to offer it, but it will be an elective for the students. Mr. Garofolo asked if Seymour had been on any of the nine committees to put this document together, or if we had taken part in any of the surveys? Ms. Tencza said no that we had not been. Mr. Garofolo thought this class was based on high minority districts. Dr. Compton stated that she would e-mail the Commissioner for clarification and we should have more discussions in November or December. She stressed that the Zoom meeting on Tuesday was very important. It is a question and answer meeting and many of your questions could be answered then. Mr. Lucke, says In regards to the Algebra 1a and 1b proposal, this class would be offered to a small subset of students that could use the extra year to build a stronger foundation in Algebra. Most high schools already offer this option. Mr. Lucke’s research indicates that 80% of those students that can’t pass traditional Algebra I end up dropping out of school. Ms. Federowicz said they are seeing significant gaps and they would like to offer this class to close those gaps. Ms. Bruno asked if the addition of this class would require an additional teacher. Mr. Lucke said it would not be necessary at this time.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to bring to full board for approval the new course for the high school program of studies Algebra 1a and Algebra 1b.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

C. Discussion- Manufacturing Program

Mr. Lucke will present to the Full BOE tonight the discussion on the Manufacturing Program.

D. Discussion- Griffin Hospital Collaborative CAN

Dr. Compton will be meeting with the CEO and President of Griffin Hospital to see about instituting this program and will update the committee as we proceed.

E. Social Studies textbook adoption (updating existing textbooks)

Mr. Willadsen said the current textbooks no longer align with the AP Exams and were written in 2012 for AP Government and 2010 for AP US History. Mr. Garofolo wanted to know if the next texts dovetail with the new state curriculum. Mr. Willadsen said in no way shape or form
does this having anything to do with the new state curriculum. The AP Exams are nation-
wide exams.
MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to bring to full board the recommendation to adopt: United
States History, Advanced Placement and United States Government & Politics

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

SO VOTED

V. REPORTS
A. Chairman’s Report
   NONE
B. Superintendent’s Report
   NONE

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
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Board and the public. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a topic to
the agenda. If questions are posed that the Chairman is able to answer, those questions may be addressed
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should be respectful and no longer than 3 minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the
opportunity to do so. All public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior
to addressing the Board.
NONE

VII. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

SO VOTED