



CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 15, 2014
Chatfield-LoPresti School
Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Jim Freund, SHS Principal
Danielle Dyer, SHS Science Teacher
Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal
Ernie DiStasi, SMS Assistant Principal
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ed Strumello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Review STEM Class/curriculum at Seymour Middle School Grades 6-8

Mrs. Hamad said the STEM class was up and running with Kerry Dest as the instructor. Ms. Dest went to Kansas over the summer for Synergy training. All 6-8th grade students will be enrolled in the Stem class. All students will take the orientation unit, CAD and Graphic Communications. It is anticipated that next year 7th and 8th grade will get into Robotics as they will not have to repeat the orientation. In its 3rd year 7th grade will take Robotics and 8th grade will take Green Energy. This schedule will be modified as needed based on the interest of the students. Mrs. Harmeling asked if the course was designed for a half year or a full year course. Mrs. Hamad said there was a choice depending on which sections you wanted to cover and that all of the software had been purchased to cover all units. Mr. Stanek asked if we were hiring 2 paraprofessionals for this class. Mrs. Hamad said only one paraprofessional was allocated for the class and the gentleman that they were moving forward to hire had an engineering background. He would work with pairs of students in the back of the room as the teacher was engaged with other students. Mr. Strumello stated that with the higher level of math and science needed for these classes he would like to see more professional development that was geared to this level instead of the district professional development. Mr. Strumello would also like to see a BOE approved curriculum for this class. Mrs. Hamad asked if they could write this curriculum one step at a time. They would do 6th grade this year and 7th grade next year followed by 8th grade. Mr. Strumello said that was a decision to be made at central office.

B. Update on English Language Arts Curriculum at Seymour Middle School

Mrs. Hamad explained that this was the first curriculum to make the revisions to align with CCSS and the department felt that the curriculum was too broad without enough depth. They have worked to create more units, moving from five to six units, and have enhanced the curriculum with additional resources. They have also been using Mary Dolan Collette as a consultant, to introduce "Reader's Workshop" which has been successfully implemented at the elementary schools. "Reader's Workshop" has now been embedded in this curriculum, books and other resources have been purchased. Mr. Strumello liked that the elementary and middle school will now have consistency.

C. Update on Math Revisions at Seymour Middle School

Mrs. Hamad said they started working on the math curriculum last year but felt that during the year it was difficult to get as much done. This summer Holly Cyr, the math consultant that has been working with the elementary schools for two years, is now assisting with the middle school curriculum. Ms. Cyr worked two days with one teacher from each grade level and then the teachers worked an additional two days. In that time ten units for each grade were developed. Three units per grade are completed; the other seven units have an outline and pacing guide completed. The consultant will be working one day with each grade and it is anticipated the other seven units will be finished by the end of October. The teachers will then select a textbook to pilot for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Hamad expects to come back to this committee with a textbook request and completed curriculum by the end of the year. Mr. Strumello wanted to know how much collaboration there was between the middle school and the high school in regards to the math curriculum. Mr. Freund said he was meeting with Mrs. Hamad next week to discuss vertical alignment and to set times for both math and world language staff to meet. As of right now it is the same Algebra I class taught at both schools as designed by the state. Mrs. Harmeling asked how the students were doing since some students had CCSS aligned math and some did not at the grade school? She also wanted to know if there was linkage between the MAP assessment and what was being taught in class. Mrs. Hamad said they were just looking at the data now and any corrections would be made after analyzing the data. Mr. Freund said we need to remember that MAP is a smart assessment and that every student is treated individually and targets are set based on each individual student with customized instruction.

D. 6th Grade Health Class Curriculum

Mrs. Snopkowski thanked Mrs. Harmeling for her request that this item be added to the agenda. After review it was determined that the document reviewed cites both standards and suggested activities for instruction. The document, which is several years old, doesn't align to the activities currently used for instruction. Any items relating to reproduction would be moved out of the 6th grade and to the 8th grade. Mr. Frosolone will add links for teens as well as links for parents to added resources on his website. Mrs. Snopkowski did a survey of surrounding towns and most have co-ed taught class in Health education and Seymour would continue with co-ed classes. Mr. Strumello felt that this was a topic best taught by professionals rather than out on the street. Mrs. Harmeling asked "so there is no reproduction taught in 6th grade?" Mrs. Hamad said the anatomy is still there as it relates to puberty but not as it ties into reproduction. Mrs. Harmeling felt we should still split the group by gender for that section. Mrs. Hamad pointed out that Mr. Frosolone now teaches nutrition and personal values in 6th grade and has moved the alcohol section to 7th grade. In conclusion since the state is vague in its guidelines as to what should be taught and when, it was decided that Mrs. Snopkowski, Mrs. Hamad, Mr. DiStasi, and Mr. Frosolone should meet to discuss 6-8th grade health curriculum.

E. New Course Proposal at Seymour High School

Mr. Freund would like to add a course titled "Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Course (see attached proposal). He feels that this would be a good course to combine with Allied Health and Anatomy as a sequence for any student interested in the medical field. Mr. Freund said Mrs. Dyer is not only certified to teach this course but actually developed this course in her last job. However, it would mean changing the structure of the scheduling as this course would be 1.5 credits. Therefore, it would be one period 1st semester and two periods 2nd semester. This would allow for both the classroom instruction and the practical instruction. The student would have to have a 75% at the end of the year to qualify to take the state test. The cost would be \$250.00 and they would have to take it at a state approved site. Mr. Strumello asked if we could host the test at a reduced cost to the students. He also stated that we offer our facilities to Seymour Ambulance at no cost; perhaps one hand could wash the other. Mrs. Snopkowski felt that this course could benefit both the students and community. Mrs. Harmeling felt it could give a whole range of student's real direction. Mr. Stanek wanted to know how this course would be combined with the other courses. Mr. Freund said it would be taught in a sequence and would be held on a rotating basis.

Mr. Freund said Seymour High is not big enough to support the course every year. Mr. Stanek asked if we had talked to Seymour Ambulance to make sure we were not going to offend them by offering this class. Mrs. Dyer said she already talked to them and they felt that this would be a way for students who would not be able to take the course to have the opportunity. It could also be a feeder program for them. Mr. Strumello asked if this course need to be moved to the full BOE at the next meeting. Mr. Freund said speed is important as you have to apply to the state for this course and it could take a year to get it in place.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to recommend to the full Board the development of the new course for the high school titled: Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Course

SO VOTED

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

III. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle