



CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 21, 2013
Seymour Central Office
7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Fred Stanek
Jim Garofolo
Yashu Putorti, 7:15 p.m.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Syriac, Superintendent
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Glenn Lungarini, SHS Principal
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Stanek called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Seymour High School Course Requests

1. Technology/STEM.

Mr. Lungarini gave a brief overview of the reason for the courses being requested. The high school would like to see students stay at Seymour High School and felt that courses being requested would allow some students that currently go to outside high schools to remain in our school system. Mr. Lucke gave the background information on the Technology/Stem classes being recommended. Engineering, Innovation, and Invention would be offered to 9th and 10th grade students. Engineering our Future Honors: A Maker Space would be a full year course for 11th and 12th grade students. This would be a more advanced Research Project. Applied Research Honors would be offered to 11th and 12th students, it would require having a community mentor and developing a concept from start to finish. The concerns were if we would have sufficient students to enroll and adequate funds for materials. Mr. Lungarini said they would survey the students to make sure that there was enough students and that they would offer the courses in a cycle. This would allow students to progress through the program. Mr. Stanek was concerned it would take away time from core instruction. Mr. Lungarini stated that this would be part of the elective process and that by 2018 students would be required to have 25 credits to graduate.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new courses for the high school titled Engineering, Innovation, and Invention, Engineering our Future Honors: A Maker Space, and Applied Research Honors.

SO VOTED

Affirmative: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

2. Science

Mr. Freund discussed the need to add to our science program. After studying the proposed CCSS at the state level the science department felt that Introduction to Astronomy would be a good upper level earth science class as it would encompass physics and conceptual science. This would be taught without text using on-line resources.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new course for the high school titled Introduction to Astronomy.

SO VOTED

Affirmative: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

3. Art

Mr. Freund explained that they would like to keep students in the high school by offering higher level art classes for serious art students. The following course proposals would be ½ year courses and would be scheduled in cycles so that students could follow a course of study. The courses proposed are Digital Photography; this is the essential first step to imaging traditional art to digital art. Graphic Design would meld digital photography to words and text as a visual communication tool to the production of ads, etc. Advanced Pottery and Sculpture would be a higher level pottery class. Advanced Painting Studio would be an extension of Modern and Traditional Painting classes currently being offered. Advanced Three Dimensional Studio would be a more in-depth offering for the current class. AP Studio Drawing would be the first AP art class and would be a full year offering for the student interested in building their portfolio and applying to art colleges. Mr. Garofolo wanted to know how students would be approved to move to the more advanced classes. Mr. Freund said they would be evaluated and recommended for the more advanced classes. There would be no need for a recommendation for the basic classes only the more advanced classes. Mrs. Syriac stated that we were laying the groundwork, building the curriculum, with the hope of adding an additional fine arts position.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new courses for the high school titled Digital Photography, Graphic Design, Advanced Pottery and Sculpture, Advanced Painting Studio, Advanced Three Dimensional Studio, and AP Studio Drawing.

SO VOTED

Affirmative: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

III. INFORMATION

A. Existing High School Courses

1. Physical Education/Health

Mr. Lungarini stated that the current 9th and 10th grade PE and Health classes would be renamed to Exercise Science and Personal Wellness and Lifetime Fitness and Wellness. This would allow 9th and 10th grade students to take the classes in cycles on alternate years raising the sections from 5 to 10 and allowing more flexibility in assigning the students in the core subjects of English and Social Studies.

2. English Grades 11 and 12

Mr. Lungarini is reinstating the traditional full year English III and English IV classes. This will address student weaknesses to make for a more well rounded English approach. English III will encompass our current Multicultural Literature, Early American Literature and Modern American Literature. There would be no need to buy text books. English IV would combine Writing the Academic Essay and Public Speaking and would be of benefit for the Senior Capstone Project.

B. Capstone Project Information

The Capstone Project is an independent student learning project. Seniors will need to pick a subject to study, they need to fill out a form and have their project approved. At that point students will need to take ownership of their project. They need to work with a mentor in the field, write a thesis with supporting documents and be prepared to present their project to a panel of judges. This is going to be a requirement of high school reform. Mr. Lungarini felt this is a difference maker when students are interviewing for colleges. Seymour would like to begin the process to have it in place at that time.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the development of the new course for the high school titled: Capstone Project.

SO VOTED

Affirmative: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

IV. **Reports**

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Jim Garofalo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to adjourn the meeting

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofalo, Mr. Stanek, Yashu Putorti

SO VOTED

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle