



CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 12, 2012

Central Office

7:00 p.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Garofolo, Ed Strumello, Fred Stanek, Yashu Putorti, Christine Syriac, Nancy Snopkowski, Glenn Lungarini, Jim Freund, Paul Lucke, Lisa Cheney, Ernie DiStasi

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

A. Election of Chairperson

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to nominate Mr. Ed Strumello as Chairman of the Curriculum & Technology Committee

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

B. Seymour High School Course Proposals

1. English

Mr. Lungarini introduced the two new proposed English classes; The Play is the Thing and Reading, Writing & Reasoning. Mr. Garofolo requested some more specific information in regard to actual playwrights and time periods that would be covered during The Play is the Thing course. Mrs. Cheney, English Department Chair provided some further detail, stating a variety of genres would be considered as well as an expansive time period. Mr. Lungarini stated that the actual curriculum would be developed if the BOE provides the approval of the course proposal. Mr. Stanek asked if any thought had been given to a part 2 to the course where students would select one of the studied plays and actually produce the play with all the components involved. Mr. Lungarini stated that yes they would like to see the program grow although the production portion might happen more as an after school activity than as a course during the school day. Mr. Putorti asked if the Reading, Writing, and Reasoning course went toward the 4 credits of English requirement. Mr. Lungarini stated it did not and that it would be treated as an elective. There was further discussion about how students would be selected for enrollment in the course. Mr. Garofolo asked for clarification that upon approval of the proposal at a later date the actual curriculum and any textbook requests would be brought before the committee for approval. That would be the process.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the two proposed new English courses for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Math

Mr. Lungarini provided an overview of the Math for Problem Solving course proposal. The course is meant to be an intervention class for students who need assistance in math. Mr. Lungarini also explained that Trigonometry and Statistics would take the place of Advanced Math. Offering two semester math electives (Trigonometry and Statistics) provides more opportunity for students to take additional math electives. The course titles also align with the state college system entrance requirements where Advanced Math does not.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the three proposed new mathematics courses for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

3. Health

Mr. Lungarini presented the new proposed health course, Injury Care and Prevention as a pre-cursor to offering a future CPR Training course and as a method to determine the interest level of students in this field. In the future there might be the interest to have an in-house EMT program. Mr. Freund stated that there is the opportunity to job shadow the athletic trainer during this course.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mr. Stanek to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the new Health course for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

4. Science

Mr. Lungarini introduced a new Forensics science course.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the Science Course entitled Introduction to Forensics for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

5. World Language

Mr. Lungarini introduced the addition of Spanish V to the world language course offerings. This is the first year that the students who completed Spanish I in 8th grade will be in the position entering their senior year to take Spanish V. Mr. Garofolo stated that while the course references conversation and composition as well as the use of reading Spanish literature that it is his belief based on his work at the college level that students at this level need linguistic skills, increased opportunities to speak the language.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/ sec. Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of Spanish V for the 2013-14 school year.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello ...all in favor.

C. Curriculum – revised 9th and 10th grade English and Early American Literature aligned to Common Core State Standards

Lisa Cheney provided an overview of the process that was conducted to align English 9, English 10 and Early American Literature to the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Lungarini stated that benchmark assessments had also been developed for the courses. Mrs. Snopkowski shared that the District English Language Arts Curriculum Committee also vetted the curriculum.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the revised English 9, English 10 and Early American Literature course curricula

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

D. Social Studies Curriculum – Seymour Middle School

Mrs. Snopkowski and Mr. DiStasi discussed the process for developing the middle school social studies curricula for grade 6-8. Teachers took an active role in the development and are very excited about the new units of study.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/ sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full BOE the approval of the middle school social studies curriculum grades 6-8

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

E. Chairman's Report

The committee would like future proposals for new courses to be more substantive to assist in the decision making process, objectives and a scope and sequence of the topics would be helpful. Mr. Strumello requested what other topics would need to be addressed this school year by the committee. Superintendent Syriac stated that she would need to schedule a meeting to present the remaining English language Arts curricula grades K-8 that were in the process of being aligned to the common core state standards. In addition, once the high school drafts the curricula for the newly approved courses the committee would need to approve the final curriculum and any possible new textbooks that would be proposed for the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Syriac will contact Mr. Strumello to schedule additional meetings.

F. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac stated that the goal is to complete the English Language Arts alignment to the Common Core State Standards during the current school year for full implementation in 2013-2014 and that the next area of focus is math which has begun in grades K-5.

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by
Christine Syriac