

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee

Minutes

April 27, 2010
Central Office
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/3/10
TIME: 8:30 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Garofolo, Bruce Baker, Ed Strumello, Fred Stanek,
MaryAnne Mascolo, Christine Syriac, Mary Lavoie

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Stanek opened the meeting with pledge to the flag.

Mr. Garofolo shared his thoughts regarding World Language which he discussed with the committee. Mrs. Syriac shared the High School enrollment of World Language classes with the committee and the course offering for the current school year and the course offerings for next year. She also briefed the committee on the World Language offerings at the Middle School. Mr. Garofolo went over the World Language requirements from the Connecticut State University system and his concerns if we are giving our high school students the necessary tools to meet the University standards. MaryAnne Mascolo discussed the state guidelines regarding World Language and the future proposals within the district. No details have been worked out but it has been talked about. There was discussion about the benefits of all students who speak World Languages. Everyone is in agreement of the importance of World Language. Many students only take a World Language because it is required to enter college.

Mr. Garofolo asked for some specifics regarding the Technology Integration Specialist position that was added in the budget. He noted that he tried to research online the job title of Technology Integration Specialist and had requested some information from other districts that employed a Technology Integration Specialist and did not receive any feedback from any of his inquiries. His concern is that we "get our bang for the buck" with this position. MaryAnne foresees putting this position on hold so that we can save jobs within the district once we know the outcome of the vote. MaryAnne went on to describe how we have teachers who do not want to use technology and actually resist it. The State of Connecticut will soon make the use of technology part of the Teacher Evaluation Plan. On the teachers' behalf, it is scary for some teachers to learn and use technology. A Technology Integration Specialist will help to educate our teachers on the latest uses of technology in the classroom. We have technology leaders within our district and they are the ones who come and share the exciting things they have found and want to share in the district. Ms. Mascolo reminded the committee that our three year plan included the slow integration of technology into the classrooms, a four or five year process to step these programs in. This will provide the necessary training so that we are certain that the hardware purchased is actually used. Christine reiterated this is a slow process and how it has worked in the Middle School. Mr. Strumello emphasized the need for the "right" person for this job since it is a new position. Christine discussed the need to schedule the time of a Technology Integration Specialist. There was a discussion as to whether this should be a single position or multiple positions. MaryAnne pointed out that it will be more than one person down the road as our needs grow as shown in the three year plan.

Christine Syriac described our vision for a District Curriculum Committee. She explained that we should have multiple committees specific to different content areas. The proposal would be that the Associate Superintendent and Director of Instruction would be on the District Curriculum Committee and they would sit on the different content area committees. The additional committee members would be an administrator with a background in the specific content area, three teachers on each committee (one elementary, one middle school, and one high school). We would send out a request and ask teachers to apply since we are interested in teachers who want to serve. At the high school, it may be the department chair. And there would also be a special education teacher to sit on the committees, which would be a committee of seven for each content area. These proposed committees would not be meeting that often probably only when they are sending something to the District Committee for review. Ed expressed his concern that the committees would be balanced; meaning that there are teachers representing each school. There was discussion of the statute regarding District Curriculum Committees and how our committee will meet the requirements of the statute. Christine envisioned each committee getting together and assessing where we are and when we will need to do reviews and revisions in the content area. We are hopeful that we will eventually be able to determine where we need changes or identify problem areas in the curriculum. Fred Stanek suggested this be put in a narrative form, reference the statute, and presented to the full Board for approval. It does not need to be done for the May 3, 2010 meeting; it can be presented some time in the future.

The funding from NVCC was received in the amount of \$8200 for the purchase of math textbooks.

MOTION: (Garofolo/StaneK): to recommend to the full board that the Algebra II textbooks be approved

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Fred Stanek, Jim Garofolo

MaryAnne noted that NEASC has removed the curriculum warning from the high school and received a number of accommodations for their work in that area. The newspapers have called and we are very proud of the work that was done at the High School.

Christine reported that Paul Lucke has received grant for the bank in the school.

MOTION: (Garofolo/StaneK) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Fred Stanek, Jim Garofolo

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by:
MaryAnne Mascolo