



## CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January, 20, 2015  
Seymour Middle School  
Library Media 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  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal SHS  
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal SHS  
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

### II. RECOMMENDED ACTION

#### A. Seymour High School Course Requests

Mr. Freund stated that the goal of the administration of Seymour High School is to make Seymour High a destination school. He wants the students of Seymour to want to go to the high school. To make Seymour High one of the best schools in the region we need to provide students with fresh and relevant courses. Mr. Stanek agreed but wanted to make sure that the core courses were going to remain strong. Mr. Stanek also wanted to know if the guidance department is helping students to choose career pathways. Mr. Freund said guidance does steer students with the help of programs like Naviance, but a lot of students still pick their classes based on what friends are taking. Mr. Stanek asked if at a future Curriculum and Technology meeting it would be possible to see the schedules and four year tracks of students with different career goals. This would allow the committee to see what a student attending UCONN takes as opposed to what a student interested in attending a community college or going straight to the workplace would have taken over their four years. Mr. Freund agreed to supply that information. Mrs. Harmeling said she loves to see courses with prerequisites as this allows students to plan their course of study. Mr. Strumello asked about how core courses fit with the NCAA requirements for Division 1 schools. Mr. Freund stated that it requires rigorous curriculum. Mr. Lucke stated at this time Seymour offers 13 AP Courses which is higher than the amount offered at the surrounding private high schools. Mr. Lucke also pointed out that Seymour is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state for the CAD program, 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Business program, and 7<sup>th</sup> for Personal Finance. This puts the high school over the technical schools like Emmett O'Brien that emphasize these courses.

#### 1. Business and Finance

##### a. Accounting III

Mr. Lucke stated that he had been approached by the students currently taking the accounting classes to add a higher level accounting class. This class would run in two year cycles. Mrs. Harmeling asked if this would be a college level class. Mr. Lucke said he would contact Naugatuck Valley Community College and see if an arrangement could be made with them.

**MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt a new course for the high school titled: Accounting III

**SO VOTED**

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

2. Science

a. Zoology

Mr. Freund said that Zoology would be an opportunity to diversify classes in the Science Department while allowing students to study animals. The .5 credit class would be a good counter balance to the 1.5 credit classes.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to recommend to the full Board to except and adopt a new course for the high school titled: Zoology

**SO VOTED**

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

3. English

a. Film Appreciation

Ms. Yusko stated this course would allow students to see behind the scenes of films. They would compare films to literature. Mr. Stanek asked if students would be required to read the book then compare. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if films would be stopped and then have discussions before moving on. Ms. Yusko said yes this would not just be a class for students to watch movies. Mrs. Harmeling suggested the name be change to reflect this so that students didn't take the class with the expectation that they would only be watching movies. The administration agrees to change the title to Film, Narrative and Techniques.

**MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt a new course for the high school titled: Film, Narrative and Techniques

**SO VOTED**

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

b. Journalism I

Ms. Yusko would like to see Journalism added for students that want to explore mass communication post high school. This class would not be just newspapers but also web based and would require them to be in front of a camera. The class would also be tied into the school newspaper. Mr. Strumello asked about staffing issues. Mr. Freund assured him that these new courses would be offered with no additional staffing. Mrs. Harmeling asked how you know an existing teacher has the right skill set. Mr. Freund stated that he looked at his current staff, took into account their skill set and student interest before requesting a new course.

**MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt a new course for the high school titled: Journalism I

**SO VOTED**

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

III. **DISCUSSION**

A. French Course Enrollment

Mr. Freund discussed the lack of enrollment in the French program at the high school. The enrollment of students in Spanish is significantly higher than students enrolled in French.

IV. **INFORMATION**

A. The Play's the Thing

Ms. Yusko stated that this course would be altered to require a small scale production by the students at the end of the class.

B. AP Biology and AP Chemistry

Mr. Freund did some research with other high schools offering AP Biology and AP Chemistry and found that Seymour had the lowest amount of minutes dedicated to these two challenging classes. He would like to make these two classes 1.5 credits by doubling the course in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Mrs. Harmeling suggested that it might be better to just have AP Biology and AP Chemistry meet every day instead of every other day. Mr. Freund will look into both scenarios and see which would work best with the rest of the courses offered. He stated that these two courses would be offered on alternating years.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

**SO VOTED**

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

Submitted by:  
Pat Boyle