



CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 27, 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

Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal

Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal SMS

Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION

A. Seymour Middle School Curriculum

1. Seymour Middle School Math Curriculum- Grades 6-8

Grade 6 Units 1-10 Grade 7 Units 1-10 Grade 8 Units 1-10

Mrs. Hamad stated that the math teachers have been working on this curriculum since last summer including release time this year. One teacher from each grade level has taken part in the writing process. However, they have shared the information and taken input from their grade level partners. This curriculum is aligned to the Common Core and has been written in such a manner that any teacher coming into the classroom can understand. Included in the curriculum are pacing guides, scope and sequencing, suggested learning tasks, and resources. Ms. Harmeling asked if the pacing guides matched the State Common Core. Mrs. Hamad said grades six and seven matched exactly but in grade 8, the teachers flipped two units. Mrs. Harmeling was concerned with the change as the Common Core is written to be taught in order by the most knowledgeable people in the country. Mrs. Snopkowski said all the teachers agreed to the change. Mrs. Snopkowski also noted that this curriculum was reviewed by a committee that had representation from all levels, elementary as well as high school math and science teachers. Mr. Strumello was happy to see the collaboration. He feels that the teachers need to be behind a new curriculum. Mrs. Hamad said all of the math teachers were excited about the new curriculum and that they all had the opportunity to pilot a unit. Mrs. Harmeling asked if we would need to buy a book to support this curriculum. Mrs. Hamad said most parents and students still want a textbook and that at the next Curriculum and Technology Meeting a textbook would be presented for approval. There was discussion as to whether a textbook would be necessary with all of the on-line resources available.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt the Seymour Middle School Math Curriculum Grades 6-8, all units as listed.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek

2. Seymour Middle School Health-Grades 6-8

Mr. DiStasi said this was a welcome change to the current curriculum and a true collaboration between Mr. Frosolone, SMS Health teacher, and Mr. Aprea, SHS Health teacher. This curriculum was written over six days. They started by looking at various other middle school's health curriculum and with the premise of "Where are we and where do we want to be"; with that in mind they built this curriculum from the ground up. This curriculum is aligned to the Connecticut Healthy and Balanced Living Frameworks. Mr. Aprea will now have a clear sense of what has been covered and can take this curriculum forward to the high school. Mrs. Harmeling said she was very happy with everything about this curriculum. This curriculum will be phased in with the seventh and eighth grade next year. There will be brief overviews of subjects that were already discussed in the old curriculum.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt the Seymour Middle School Health Curriculum Grades 6-8.

SO VOTED

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

3. Seymour Middle School STEM Curriculum-Grade 6

Mrs. Hamad reported Ms. Dest - SMS STEM teacher and the technology teachers at the high school collaborated on this curriculum. This is a perfect feeder program allowing the high school to expand on their courses. Ms. Dest transitioned the Pitsco curriculum into our curriculum while aligning it to Common Core and Technology Standards as well as the new Science Standards. Seventh grade will be phased in next year and eighth the following year. Mr. Strumello wanted to know how much extra time was needed to complete the projects, other than class time. Mrs. Hamad said all work was done during class time.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board to accept and adopt the Seymour Middle School STEM Curriculum Grade 6.

SO VOTED

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

III. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report
None

B. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Snopkowski indicated that she would need to have another Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting in June to discuss the seventh and eighth grade STEM Curriculum, high school Journalism, and the approval of textbooks for various classes. The committee conferred and agreed to meet on June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Seymour Middle School.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

SO VOTED

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

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle