

# Seymour Board of Education



## CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 20, 2016  
Seymour Middle School  
Library Media Room  
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 7/27/16  
TIME: 2:00pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kristen Harmeling  
Ed Strumello

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Garofolo

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Jim Freund, SHS Principal  
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal  
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. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Textbook Selection

1. Math, grades 10-12 pre-calculus

Mr. Lucke presented the committee with the new pre-calculus textbook for review. The current book was published in 1992 and has no online resources and contains outdated references. The book the math department selected is Pre-Calculus by Sullivan. It was published in 2016, has online resources including YouTube videos. Mr. Strumello asked how it connects to the state curriculum currently being used for Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. He also wanted to know why they went with a brand new book. Mr. Lucke said the state does not have curriculum for the more advanced courses but felt this selection would tie in very well with what is currently being taught. The math department wanted to go with a book that is both relevant and current. This book has links already attached for assessments including pre-tests.

**MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to recommend to the full board the adoption of the Pre-Calculus book by Sullivan, published by Pearson.

**SO VOTED**

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

B. University of Bridgeport Accounting Course

Mr. Lucke stated that Mr. Catanese is the number one teacher in the state based on test scores for accounting. This year he invited a University of Bridgeport professor to be one of the judges for his student's "Shark Tank" projects. The professor was impressed and had the Accounting Chair for the University of Bridgeport reach out to the high school with a proposal for the accounting students to earn college credit. The students would have to take Accounting I and II and pass with a B or better to earn college credit. There would be no cost to our students and we would not be obligated to use their book. A University of Bridgeport professor would come out once or twice a year to check in and offer any help if needed. Mr. Lucke said this is just another opportunity for our students to earn college credit.

C. Capstone Update

Mr. Freund distributed an informational sheet of local schools and their Capstone Projects. Only 50% of the schools have a Capstone Project and not all are mandatory. Of the schools who have a mandatory Capstone Project not all award credit. Mr. Freund said this means that Seymour has a lot of flexibility in how they do their Capstone Project. Mr. Freund would like to utilize the Naviance Software and take the Student Success Plans that it generates to help the students build a meaningful Capstone Project and not just research projects. Mr. Freund said the state is starting to offer two AP Classes for AP Capstone projects which could also be integrated. Mrs. Harmeling would like Mr. Freund to do a kick-off meeting to the full board with Mr. Freund's Vision of the Capstone Project. During the presentation to the board the committee would like to see examples of other district's Capstone Projects as well as an overview of Naviance to better understand how this could tie in to the Seymour Capstone Project.

D. High School Language Courses

Mr. Freund is happy to announce that we have 29 students signed up for French I at the high school. The new Exploratory French and Spanish program is being offered at the middle school to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders; as well as French I being offered in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade with the students being awarded high school credit. We hope this will see the reemergence of the French program at the high school level.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**SO VOTED**

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

Submitted by:  
Pat Boyle