

# Seymour Board of Education



## CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 19, 2016  
Seymour High School  
Library Media Room  
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 12/23/16  
TIME: 11:30 am  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Jim Freund, SHS Principal  
Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal  
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

### II. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### A. Curriculum Project

Mrs. Tencza shared the progress of the staff curriculum work that is being conducted as well as the biographies of Traci Healy, Math Specialist; Candy Price and Najla Staggers, Literacy Specialists who will be facilitating the curriculum work. Mrs. Yusko will be leading the high school language arts work, Mrs. Hamad the middle school math work and Mrs. Feige the elementary language arts. Mr. Strumello wanted to know why we were using CREC specialists instead of ACES personnel. Mrs. Tencza explained that she had approached ACES first and they were unable to supply personnel for the times that would be required to do the work after school hours.

#### B. Student Data Privacy Act

Mrs. Tencza stated that Central Office had Mr. Dorsey, Board Attorney; draft an addendum with the privacy act to be included on contracts with our software suppliers. Mrs. Tencza also said that the State is looking to delay the Privacy Act by at least a year. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if we should add a policy and if this should be brought before the Policy Committee. Mrs. Harmeling didn't feel it was necessary as it was being State driven.

#### C. Capstone Project Update

Mr. Freund wanted to update the committee on the ongoing Capstone Project. His working committee is right at the timeline that was given to the board. He has been meeting with faculty, students and Board of Education members at regular intervals to come up with a Seymour Capstone Project that would be unique to Seymour. The project would be a project that all seniors could take part in from AP students to special education students. Mr. Freund doesn't want the project to be so much journaling and writing that it is daunting to some students. He feels that a semester class will need to be added for the students to have adequate time to complete their projects as well as having necessary teacher support. Mr. Freund said he would have his working committee review the documents, edit and revise and come to this committee in January with a workable document.

#### D. SHS Library/Media Update

Mr. Freund stated that the library as it has been utilized is not effective. He wants to change the atmosphere and call it a "learning commons". He wants it to be the hub of learning in the school. Mr. Freund would like to see more technology including video recording equipment, rooms for study groups and a welcoming atmosphere. This would no longer be a quiet studying location.

Mr. Lennon is developing a program with the help of Mr. Dyer and will come back to this committee with a formal proposal. Mrs. Harmeling felt this was a way for students to take ownership of their space. Mr. Garofolo was concerned that this might not produce the desired results and students could run rampant. He was wondering if there would be enough monitoring of the students so they do not take advantage. Mr. Freund felt with the new design of the space there would be enough monitoring if not he would look to bring in a paraprofessional to help monitor it. Mr. Freund felt this was a way to help students learn responsibility and help them to mature appropriately.

E. World Language Update at SMS

Mrs. Hamad said it is wonderful to be able to offer two languages at the middle school. The exploratory program is going very well with having Mrs. Tropeano there every other day. No students were turned away that wanted to participate. Next year's projections as this time is 23 students in French, if more students should sign up for French another section might need to be offered. If that should happen there might need to be either a realignment of staff or an addition of a part time teacher. Mr. Garofolo asked what a typical day of teaching in this class was like. Mrs. Hamad said reading, writing and speaking with a lot of group and partner work with the speaking aspect. Mr. Garofolo said he would love to visit a class. Mrs. Hamad felt he would be impressed with the level of instruction. Mrs. Harmeling asked if it would be possible to have a demonstration at a committee meeting. Mrs. Hamad and Mr. Freund will collaborate on the possibility of updating textbooks and learning materials for these classes.

F. Discussion: Science offering at Middle School

Mrs. Harmeling wanted to know if any thought had been given to adding a high school science class to the middle school much like Algebra I and World Language. Mr. Freund and Mrs. Hamad stated that the State statutes don't allow it. Mrs. Harmeling was stunned and disappointed with the State stance.

III. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Pat Boyle