

Seymour Board of Education



CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 15, 2017

Seymour Middle School

Library Media Room

6:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/23/17
TIME: 2:15pm
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
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant 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 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Curriculum Update

Mrs. Tencza stated that she has been in contact with the administrators to put together a list of curriculum areas to work on this summer. June 15 and 16 will be used for curriculum work; including SMS Math with Tracy Healy, SHS English with Candy Price, and Elementary English with Najla Stagers. An administrator will be included at each level. Mrs. Yusko will be submitting Physical Education and Health suggestions in the next few weeks. Mrs. Tencza said she would have a list by the June Board of Education meeting. She stated with the implementation of the new website she would like the entire curriculum to be available on the website in the future.

B. Capstone Project Update

Mr. Freund reviewed the Capstone Project and stated he is ready to present the proposal to the full Board. After discussion it was suggested that the presentation be placed on the September BOE agenda to allow input from the new superintendent. This would also allow the high school to reach out to parents to afford them the opportunity to be present. Mrs. Harmeling suggested adding one or two more items for parents to kickoff the school year. It is anticipated that the Capstone Project will appear in the 2018-2019 Program of Studies to begin utilizing it on an elective basis with those students interested. It would be required of the 2022 class.

C. World language Update: SMS

Mrs. Hamad stated that a new foreign language teacher was not needed for next year. The current school year had 169 sixth graders with 101 assigned to the Exploratory World Language Class. 95 seventh graders took Spanish A and 15 took French A this year with 108 out of 200 eighth graders taking Spanish. Next year's incoming sixth grade class is smaller and 82 of 150 students have elected to take the exploratory class. 77 of the seventh graders will take Spanish and 13 will take French. 93 eighth graders will continue to Spanish B and 15 to French B which is 98% of the students from the previous year completing the two years of world language offered. Mr. Strumello asked if this was an indication that there was more interest in Spanish.

Mr. Freund wanted to point out that you do not get a Spanish credit for Spanish from the middle school nor Algebra credit for Algebra I; they are counted as a general credit it allows you to take higher level courses once you enter the high school. Mrs. Harmeling suggested a possible .5 credit course as a senior in Spanish just to keep the students current when entering college.

D. Proposal-Program of Studies 2018-2019 Course Offering Revisions

Mr. Lucke stated that the high school would like to replace AP Drawing with AP 2D Art and AP 3D Art on a rotating basis. These are more applicable to a digital world. This is also a niche for some students that keeps them interested in school. Mr. Lucke said this lends itself to engineering, game design, architecture and animation. He said the last addition would be to add AP Macroeconomics, which would be the next step in our business program which currently ranks #1 in the state. Mr. Strumello said that these are the kinds of things the public need to be made aware of, how much money student's can save and what job markets it opens. Mrs. Hamad suggests reaching out to the business community and inviting them to a lunch presentation with this type of information. The committee was in favor of the changes to the Program of Studies for 2018-2019 to reflect these revisions.

IV. **RECOMMENDATION**

A. Textbook Adoption: World Language

Mr. Freund said this was the first textbook which was a joint collaboration with SMS and SHS to present a vertically articulated adoption of curriculum. Both textbooks offer on line components with fully digital capabilities for the future. Mr. Strumello commended the schools for both the joint work and the fact that the textbook request form was completed in its entirety. Mr. Garofolo discussed the online resources and the workbook portion of the textbooks.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to recommend to the full Board of Education the adoption of the Bien Diet! 2018 textbook for grades 7-12 French and the Realidades 2014 for grades 7-12 Spanish classes for the 2017-2018 school year

SO VOTED

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

V. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle