

Seymour Board of Education



CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2018
Seymour Middle School
Library-Media Classroom
3:30 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/30/18
TIME: 2:10 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Garofolo
Ed Strumello
Kristen Harmeling (3:45)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
James Freund, SHS Principal
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal
Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal
Ernie DiStasi, SMS Assistant Principal
Rob Dyer, Technology Coordinator
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:05 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. INFORMATION

A. Summer Curriculum Update-Mrs. Tencza

Mrs. Tencza shared a document with the committee outlining the summer curriculum work which will be done right after the completion of the school year. The work will be done across the district by a variety of teachers. Mr. Garofolo asked how the hours per subject were determined. Mrs. Tencza said the administrators and teachers working on the curriculum estimated the amount of time needed. There is more curriculum that needs to be written and in collaboration with the administrators a list will be compiled.

B. Capstone Project-Mr. Freund

Mr. Freund stated that the Capstone project is ready to be implemented for the incoming freshman class. Capstone rubrics have been written and will be incorporated as part of the Developmental Guidance program which includes Naviance software. Naviance is a program that monitors learning styles as well as college and career awareness. Capstone will be done primarily in the Advisory sessions and under the auspices of the school counselors.

World Language Update-Mrs. Hamad, Mr. Freund

Mrs. Hamad said that currently there are 16 students enrolled in 7th grade French and 80 in 7th grade Spanish. Currently enrolled are 105 students in 8th grade Spanish. Only 11 students have signed up from the 6th grade Exploratory World Language class to take French next year as 7th graders. Mrs. Hamad is concerned with the small number of students taking French next year. Mr. Freund asked the committee whether the French students would be allowed to receive credit on their transcripts similar to what is currently done for Spanish. He wanted to remind the board that this credit was elective credit and not World Language credit. Mr. Garofolo asked if there was a grade requirement attached to the credit or if a student could get the credit and start in Spanish II with a D average in middle school. Mr. Freund confirmed that was the case. No decision was rendered at this time.

- C. High School Course Articulated Agreements-Mr. Lucke
Mr. Lucke reported to the committee that an articulated agreement has been reached with the University of Bridgeport for our Calculus Honors class. This will allow students to receive the 1.2 credit for the class.
- D. Middle School Science Update-Mr. DiStasi
Mr. DiStasi stated that by affiliating with CREC and a statewide consortium we have a vertically articulated curriculum with grade level expectations. There are 4 days scheduled in June to be led by CREC to work on the units' resources and assessments. Mrs. Harmeling asked what the timeline was for all grades to be using the NGSS. Mrs. Tencza said she felt in 3 school years all grades would be using it.
- E. Technology Update-Mr. Dyer
Mr. Dyer wanted to inform the committee that Google has come up with a 5 year obsolete plan on Chromebooks. This is the date the Chromebooks were manufactured not purchased. They are doing this by only allowing a device 2 updates. This will affect our SBAC assessments. While this will make the Chromebooks no longer sufficient for testing purposes it will not make them obsolete for other uses. He just wanted the board to be aware that we are going to need a plan to budget for replacement of the Chromebooks. In the year 2022 we will have many Chromebooks that will need to be refreshed. Mrs. Harmeling wanted to know if we were going toward the plan of having students assigned a Chromebook and allowing them to take them home. Mrs. Tencza said this was something that would need further discussion. Mr. Dyer also reported that the 80%-90% of the Smartboards were out of warranty. They are \$3000.00 a piece to replace them. When the projector goes it is over \$1000.00 to replace and currently we spend \$10,000 a year for bulbs for the Smartboards. At this time we are piloting 2 different interactive LCD systems which are more economical with the intention of leasing the systems. Mr. Garofolo asked if it would be possible for the Board to receive a demo. Mr. Dyer said yes they could do a Board of Education meeting in one of the rooms. Mr. Dyer said the roll out wouldn't start until September and it would depend on the availability of the company installing them and how long they project it to take per school for the installation.
- F. Increased Graduation Requirements-Mr. Freund
Mr. Freund went over the new graduation requirements. There will be 26 credits required of the class of 2022. Policy 6146 that was adopted had the breakdown of the requirements by subject.

IV. DISCUSSION

- A. Grade 6 Writing Class-Mrs. Hamad
Mrs. Hamad wanted the board to be aware that we will be working on adding Writer's Workshop at the 6th grade level. This will align more closely with the amount of time that the elementary classes spend on ELA. This will be a complement to Reader's/Writer's Workshop that is currently being used and will lead to more complex writing across all disciplines. Mrs. Tencza wanted the committee to be aware that we have contracted with Patricia Wright, a Reading/Writing Consultant. Ms. Wright will be working with grades K-6 for 4 half day embedded workshops. Mrs. Harmeling asked if this was going to be a long term addition to the 6th grade curriculum. Mrs. Hamad said they were committed to this program.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- A. Resource Adoption: Middle School Mathematics-Mrs. Hamad
Mrs. Hamad stated that the math teachers were piloting 3 resources for one math unit; Go Math, Ready Math, and Illustrative Math. One is more traditional, one is all online, and the other is more activity or project based. The teachers are doing lessons, an assessment and homework assignments from each resource. Upon completion of the unit the students will take a survey and the teachers will meet to decide which resource they prefer. At the end of the piloting Mrs. Hamad will come back to the committee with a recommendation.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo /sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to table the recommended action of Resource Adoption for Middle School Mathematics.

SO VOTED

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

VI. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

Mr. Strumello thanks everyone for attending and at this time no motions need to be moved to the full board.

B. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Tencza gave the committee Patricia Wright's resume for review. She also wanted the board to be aware that we will be moving the elementary schools away from Quarters next year to Trimesters.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo /sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting at 5:18:p.m.

SO VOTED

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

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle