

Seymour Board of Education



CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 11, 2019
Seymour Middle School
Library-Media Classroom
3:30 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 11/14/19
TIME: 8:30am
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
Rob Dyer, Director of IT
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:30 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. INFORMATION

A. Capstone Update-Mr. Freund

Mr. Freund said this is the 2nd year of Capstone implementation and they are still developing the process. The counselors are implementing the lessons during Advisory. Mr. Strumello asked why the counselors are doing the lessons. Mr. Freund explained that the Capstone project dovetails with the developmental guidance program and asking teachers would have a financial impact. Mr. Freund said that the counselors are working with teachers and using Google to implement the program. Students start as freshman taking the Naviance-Multiple Intelligence and Career Interest Profile- to find their areas of interest. Sophomores will document in their Process Journal and start an outline for review in Advisory. In either the student's sophomore or junior year, a draft of their project will be presented for review. In their Junior or Senior year, the project will be presented. Mr. Freund wants the projects to be something all can do no matter their level. Mr. Strumello and Ms. Harmeling said now is the time to think about whether scoring for this should be an Appendix E stipend position for next year. Mr. Strumello also suggested getting outside professionals to be part of the scoring of the projects.

B. Review of new course offerings from the past few years-Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke

The courses that were new in the last three years were presented for review. The number of sections and enrollment figures were analyzed. Ms. Harmeling said it looked like a lot of these need to have curriculum written or updated. Mr. Strumello asked if there was a deadline to have curriculum in place. Mrs. Tencza said that there are three ways to do curriculum and all are voluntary. 1) Do it over the summer 2) Offer release time to teachers and have substitutes in the classroom during the release time or 3) Hire an outside consultant. Mr. Garofolo asked if we are prioritizing what curriculum needs to be written. Mrs. Tencza said she put together a 5-year curriculum rotation. Mr. Freund noted that some of the courses were not offered because of staffing constraints. Mr. Freund said he would have a 2021 NEASC report that would ask for the status of the high school curriculum

C. Review of CTE course offerings and credit-Mr. Lucke

A handout was attached giving a review of the CTE courses and the amount of credit given for each course. Mr. Lucke noted that in the Perkins Grant next year, there is going to be a cooperative work credit and programs will be evaluated for having a cooperative work experience.

IV. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Proposal-Program of Studies 2020-2021 New Course Offerings-Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke

The following new courses were proposed to be added to the Program of Studies for 2020-2021. African American Studies is a Social Studies semester course and there would be no additional cost. Robotics Engineering 2 is the next course in the Robotics series and the curriculum has already been purchased. Three new semester English courses for consideration are Exploring Poetry, Science Fiction/Fantasy, and Multicultural Literature and Composition. This will offer students a choice of three additional English electives. Mr. Freund is already going to ask for an additional English teacher, so these courses should have minimal costs to purchase materials.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to present to the full board to accept all of the above classes into the Program of Studies for 2020-2021.

SO VOTED

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

V. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

Mr. Strumello asked if the name of the committee should be changed, as we do not discuss technology in this committee. Mrs. Tencza said she was going to update the committee on technology deployment during her Superintendent's report. Mr. Strumello wanted to compliment our veteran, Mr. Garofalo, and thank him for his service and coming to the meeting.

B. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Tencza said we started a 1 to 1 deployment at the middle school of chrome books last year and they would like to expand this in some manner to the high school. Students that bring their own devices are on a Guest Network, which is too slow for their needs. Mr. Dyer said if we deploy our own devices, this would resolve this issue, as they would then be on the School Network. Mr. Strumello asked what they could do to help, or what could be brought to the full board for their support. Mrs. Tencza said at this time she and Mr. Dyer were going to come up with a proposal and present it for input. Better lessons will continue at the high school as well as in 8th grade. The elementary assistant principals are researching whether we should stay with Math Expressions or move on to a different resource for our K-5 math program. Mrs. Tencza closed by saying it was an honor to go to the Veteran's assemblies across the district and she could not think of a better way to spend Veteran's Day.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec. Mr. Garofolo) to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

SO VOTED

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

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle