

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: William Blake (ad hoc) Chris Browe, Steve DeMaio, Tom Hurley, Diane Crocco.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Gedansky

Staff members present: Dr. Marie McPaddon, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Dr. Charles Britton, Mr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Elena Serapiglia, Mr. Mohamedou Mustapha, Ms. Cara Haas,, Mr. William Racco, Ms. Julie Chevan and Mr. Ken Clark.

Also present: Ruth Natzel.

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, October 23, 2014 at 5:15 pm in the Presentation Room at the Amity District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Browe called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.
2. **Welcome and introductions**
3. **New course proposals and new textbook requests**
 - A. **Textbook - Quant a Moi, 5th Edition (World Language)** World Language Department Chair This will be the new text for the AP French Class to be taught by Mr. Mustapha. Ms. Serapiglia presented the need for the new text, physical book versus E-edition and question of whether or not the Teacher's Edition should be purchased. The list price is \$132.49, \$84.90 on Amazon. Purchase of 12 books will be covered by funding by Dr. Britton, Ms. Serapiglia is asking the committee for permission to use this text. The price includes access to an E-book. There was discussion by Ms. Serapiglia and Mr. Mustapha and the members of the committee regarding the need for the Teacher's Edition and questions about inclusion of a listening CD with the text.

Motion to accept the text Quant a Moi into the Foreign Language curriculum by Mr. Hurley, Ms. Crocco 2nd

The Committee agreed to leave it to Dr. Britton to decide whether or not to purchase the Teacher's Edition.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- B. **Social Robotics and Engineering Research Program (Technical and Engineering Ed)**

Dr. Dellinger gave a presentation a new elective in the technology program at the middle school and gave the history of the program at the middle school. Now the program has maxed out in terms of numbers of students that can participate. The proposal is to have 24 students in the fall and keep the traditional course in the spring. This builds on the current program and students would be more challenged. There would be \$1200 built into the budget this year, \$3000 next year. One of the projects included using the NOW robot used for tutoring. Some of the students are feeding right into the science and technology program at the high school. This program is in Bethany but could be shared with Orange. Mr. Browe proposed that the students from the middle schools come to the high school and work with the technology students and teachers.

Motion to accept the Social Robotics and Engineering Research Program into the course catalog by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Demaio

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Motion to move agenda items G and H up by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Crocco

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- G. The Graphic Novel (ELA)** The Graphic novel – Ms. Chevan spoke about this course aligning with the BOE goals and needs that have been identified; the course has interdisciplinary possibilities. Mr. Clark presented the specifics of the course. This is a visual literacy course, not about comic books, designed to improve the overall mobility and stability of the students to navigate in the very visual world they live in. It's an emerging and evolving field. Only a few high schools in Connecticut offer this course. It's approachable by a wide student population and it's multicultural. This is a senior half-year elective course. Mr. Demaio asked about the curriculum being changed depending on the needs and levels of the students. It would not be an honors course but level 1 and combined level 2 and 3. Ancillary texts would change depending on the levels of the students but the course text would not change. The medium would be studied; this is classified as more of a writing course rather than a reading course. There were questions and discussion about grading and the student's need for artistic ability between the Committee, Mr. Clark, Ms. Chevan and Dr. McPaddon. The final project would be the creation of a graphic novella. The main text is Understanding Comics at a cost of \$13.00 each, 30 copies. There is no extra staffing requirement or extra training. Curriculum development time for the instructor would be required. This is proposed to begin in the fall of 2015. Mr. Demaio complemented Mr. Clark, "being a second-year teacher and taking this on is phenomenal and we want to support you in that."

Motion to add the course The Graphic Novel to the course catalog by Ms. Crocco, Mr. DeMaio 2nd

Mr. Hurley stated that the academics of this course should be stressed, due to the "comic" text.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- H. AP Capstone (ELA)** Mr. Racco presented the history of the current class and proposed class. This is a 2-part course. Students currently complete a group project, an individual paper and a final examination. This is a pre-requisite for the 5,000-word thesis capstone project. Currently only 4 high schools offer this course - Choate, Taft, Hall and Conard. The college board created in response to need for more research at the high school level. There is unprecedented cross-curricula potential. The students will choose their own subject for the year-long research, such as a science subject. This also fits in with the BOE goals including individualized learning. This will begin as an AP class, then filter down to the lower levels. Mr. Hurley asked how the students will be scored/credited/graded. There is a one-time expense of training the instructor, no text book costs. Grant money will cover cost of training according to Dr. McPaddon. Mr. Hurley asks about library time/research time that would be further cost and felt that money should be put aside in case of any further costs. Mr. Demaio spoke about putting money aside to pay for copyright costs. Dr. McPaddon will check with the media specialists about that. Dr. Britton stated that capstone projects will be required by class of 2020 and he is in contact with other schools that are developing their curricula for this. An AP diploma would be awarded for both courses, AP credit awarded for taking only the first course. Projects subject to instructor-student agreement for the subject and type of thesis they choose.

Motion to add AP Capstone class to the course catalog made by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Crocco.

Dr. Britton spoke about how this came about last year.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Motion to act on agenda items I thru M by Ms. Crocco, 2nd Mr. Hurley

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- I. AP United States Government and Politics (Social Studies)** Cara Haas, Social Studies Department Chair, presented the addition of two new courses, government and economic policy course (half year each) and AP United States government and politics. Ms. Haas gave a history of the current curriculum. She proposed the purchase of the text and digital option, but the publisher, Pearson, has revamped the text so further research is needed before final approval of the texts, to be presented at January meeting. Pearson has samples on the way. Of note, a civics course is needed for graduation beginning with the class of 2017. The McGruder book has been used already and is available for use. Both of these have an updated realized platform to accompany this. Ms. Haas is asking for approval of the course with the texts to be examined in January.
- J. American Government and Economic Policy (Levels 1,2, and 3) (Social Studies)** AP Government and Economic Policy course is proposed by Ms. Haas. Training is included by the text company with the purchase of text cost and digital platform. Questions were asked about current social studies graduation requirements. A 6-year site license alone is \$106, with the book, \$128; Ms. Haas is recommending the purchase of both. Demaio asks about age of texts now. The number of civics texts needed would be 315. There were questions and discussion regarding the age of the current text books. These are new courses so there are no "old" texts. The previous civics text books the department has are 36 books 2010 edition, 55 books 2004 edition and, 96 books 2001 edition and American History books from 1998. Committee members discussed a previous policy of bringing text books that are 10 years old before the Committee for replacement. Mr. DeMaio suggested that this Committee needs to bring the issue of old textbooks to the Board and make purchase of replacements a priority in the upcoming budget. There was also discussion about the new texts and how they would align with Common Core/ Connecticut Core. Mr. Browe asked what happens to digital access after 6 years; the access would have to be purchased again. It is more cost effective to purchase the 6-year license and the digital content is improve and updated. Text book turnover every 6 years is assumed. The cost for the AP United States Government and Politics text is \$17,000, American Government and Economics Policy course book is \$73,000 (315 books), total of \$90,000. Mr. Browe suggests making sure a piece on personal economics is included in both of these courses. There was a question and further discussion on what staff members, i.e. certified in economics, will teach this course.

Motion to add both courses, AP United States Government and Politics and American Government and Economic Policy Levels 1, 2 and 3 to the catalog by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Demaio

Votes unanimous on both motions

Motion carried

Motion to approve the American Government and Economic Policy text by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. DeMaio

Votes unanimous on both motions

Motion carried

Motion that other texts be first on the agenda for the next curriculum meeting by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Demaio

Vote unanimous

Motion carried.

Committee now took action on the remaining agenda items C thru F.

- C. Integrated Math (Math)** Dr. Britton stated that this is integrated math for level 3 students. Students are currently being instructed in an independent-guided program (IGP) instructed by a special education teacher. We would start integrated math team-taught by a special education teacher and a qualified math teacher and move the student out of the special education resource room. Dr. McPaddon states there is no cost for this.

Motion to add the Integrated Math course by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Ms. Crocco

Vote unanimous

Motion carried.

- D. Materials, Design, Function (CTE/Fine Arts)** Dr. Britton explained that this is an interdisciplinary course taught by applied education teacher who can allow students to weld with him and an art teacher to bring the sculpting background.

Motion to add Materials Design and Function course by Ms. Crocco, 2nd by Mr. Demaio

Questions about safety issues and staffing were asked and answered.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

- E. Acting and Directing for Film (Fine Arts)** Dr. Britton stated that an acting and directing for film class is currently offered for one year. It is proposed to make it available as a 2nd year course for the same students who would function as mentors, take on leadership roles and expand on what they learned in the first year. Mr. Demaio would like to see this offered to as many students as possible and not turn anyone away. This is a team-taught course, 24 students with each teacher so 48 students benefit. Mr. Hurley asked what would be different between the first and second years of instruction. Dr. Britton said they will expand on what they learned and take a leadership role. Dr. Britton stated that the second year students will be evaluated to different standards than the first year student.

Motion to add Acting and Directing for Film course by Mr. Hurley, 2nd by Mr. Demaio

Mr. Browe asked if there is a way to increase enrollment of the class based on seniors possibly becoming leaders or co-teachers; will the union contract allow that? The librarian supervises 60 children at a time. Dr. Britton said it may not be allowed by the contract. It would be similar to students in the band who become section leaders. Mr. Browe asked Dr. Britton to think about how the slots for the second year students will be allocated.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried.

- F. Special Projects in Video Production and Advanced Editing (Media/Fine Arts)**
This is from the Digital Video Department to add another class in the sequence. Students will take on their own projects for the school and community.

Motion to add the course Special Projects in Video Production and Advanced Editing by Ms. Crocco, 2nd by Mr. Demaio.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

4. **Other** - Mr. Hurley stated that a member of the Board of education has requested that the curriculum committee look at a later starting time Amity High School. Dr. McPaddon said she could do a survey. There was discussion and comments made regarding the difficulty of this tied to school transportation, athletics, and whether or not academic performance is tied to a later start time. Mr. Hurley requested that this go to the steering committee to consider the impact on high school and middle school. One high school in the state has a later starting date, Wilton High School.

5. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Demaio, 2nd by Mr. Hurley at 7:15 p.m.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk