

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Browe, Mr. Steve DeMaio, Ms. Rita Gedansky and Mr. Tom Hurley.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Crocco.

Staff members present: Dr. Marie McPaddon, Dr. Charles Britton, Mr. Charles Dumais, Mr. Christian McCarthy, Mr. William Rocco and Ms. Mary Raiola.

Also present: Mrs. Ruth Natzel.

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 5:15 pm in the Conference Room at the Amity District Offices.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Browe called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.
- 2. Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II textbooks pilot.** McGraw Hill textbooks were piloted this year for grades 8, 9 and 10. Mr. McCarthy explained that these texts were conceptually more aligned to what was already going on, and the rigor was more appropriate to what was being taught at Amity. There is an online component that students can tap into at home. Probability and statistics are infused throughout the program rather than being a stand-alone piece. Dr. McPaddon would like to start grade 7 next year and that would give alignment all the way through grades 7 through 12 and be aligned with CT Core standards. This also allows students to practice online work which is important because standardized testing takes place online. Dr. Britton spoke about the online components, that they are 1) aligned with common core, 2) aligned grades 7-12 and 3) supports Amity's bring your own device (BYOD) component. The software license that comes with the texts is good for six years. Mr. Hurley asked how old the books are that are being replaced. Dr. McPaddon has a textbook forecast request in place that she was going to present in item 6 (other) of the agenda. Each department has given Dr. McPaddon a forecasted list of what will be needed. Mr. Hurley requested that the condition of the current texts be included in the forecast list.

Motion by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Gedansky to accept the three McGraw-Hill math textbooks, Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry.

Vote unanimous

Motion passed

- 3. Graphic novel text evaluation –** Mr. Rocco brought the main text for the Graphic Novel class and curriculum, Understanding Comics, The Invisible Art. Course specifics and adjunct texts were presented at the previous Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Gedansky to accept Understanding Comics, The invisible Art as the main text for the Graphic Novel class..

Vote unanimous

Motion passed

Motion by Mr. De Maio, second by Mr. Hurley to move to item #5 on the agenda, AP Capstone Project.

Vote unanimous

Motion passed

5. **AP Capstone update** – Mr. Rocco gave an update regarding the AP Capstone course; unfortunately it will not be able to be certified as an AP course for next year. However, the course can be run as an elective next year without AP credit and make it “contract for credit” and also give opportunity to work out any bugs. He explained how he would structure the course and get it certified for the following next year. There was discussion about enrollment numbers for the class. Mr. Rocco will get into the AP training this year. There will be no prerequisite for the 1st year course (AP Seminar) but the AP Seminar course is a prerequisite for the 2nd year course. There was discussion about offering the class as AP, honors and as an elective (level 1 and 2) once it’s approved. Next year’s class could be a mixed level. Mr. Rocco spoke about other possibilities, individual instruction. There was discussion regarding making this only AP offering versus a broader offering. No action needed to be taken at this time.
4. **Pearson economics text update** – Dr. Britton presented the economics text; it is last year’s edition so not the exact text that will be used. The new version of the text includes the C3 (college, career and civic life) social studies framework just approved by the State for Connecticut Common Core. This text has very robust online resources and materials. It also contains a personal finance piece which is something that was brought up in the alumni survey. Mr. Hurley asked about supplemental material for personal finance, particularly for insurance. Dr. McPaddon stated that the online resources have supplemental materials and if other resources are necessary they will be researched.

Motion by Mr. Demaio, second by Ms. Gedansky to approve the online portion of the text, Prentice-Hall Economics update with the assumption that the new text will be purchased when it is available.

6. **Other** - Mr. Hurley reminded the committee about the need to consider the request to push back the start of school.
5. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Demaio, second by Md. Gedansky at 6:22 p.m.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk