

Amity Board of Education Curriculum Committee Minutes

March 14, 2018

Committee Members Present: Shannan Carlson, Carla Eichler, Amy Esposito, Robyn Berke, Paula Cofrancesco, and Christopher Browe, Board of Education Chairman

Administration Present: Dr. Marie McPadden and Jen Schuchat, Amity School Bethany Social Studies Teacher

Public Present: Kristen Marques, Orange Parent

Meeting called to order by Shannan Carlson, Chair at 6:31 pm

CIAC Grading Rule: Ernie Goodwin was unable to attend this meeting and requested to report to the committee at the next Board Curriculum Committee meeting.

Textbook Approved: Social Studies Grade 7 teacher Jen Schuchat from AMSB presented the new text selected by the committee: *World Cultures in Geography: Eastern Hemisphere plus the Global Issues Series*.

Textbook Approved: *Biology*

Both textbooks were previously approved by the District Steering Committee.

Public Comment: A discussion focused on the possibility of offering a sign language course at the high school. Ms. Kristen Marquis, a parent from Orange, presented the committee with handouts of various articles citing the benefits of having a sign language course. Ms. Marquis noted that there is a sign language club at the high school. A correspondence in favor of offering sign language from Mr. Schneider, a parent from Bethany, was distributed to the group by Ms. Marquis.

The State Department of Education certifications required to teach American Sign Language was shared by Dr. McPadden. She also shared survey results of DRG A & B school districts indicating that four out of 22 districts surveyed offer sign language. The process by which a course is offered includes an examination of all factors to determine feasibility. Factors include cost, availability of a certified instructor, a determination of grade levels, and interest. Dr. McPadden will plan to meet with the

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department chair of World Language, middle school content leaders of World Language, and building principals to start exploring this idea. An update will be provided at the next Board Curriculum Committee.

The 2016-17 CT Next Generation Accountability Report was shared with the committee along with a draft PowerPoint that will be presented at the April 9th Board of Education meeting.

Adjourned at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Marie McPadden
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development