

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2020**

The January 23, 2020 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Bill Salazar 6:01 PM.

Present: Bill Salazar, Joyce Hall and Jonathan LeBlanc
Absent: None
Also Present: Chris Ponte, John Dague, Michelle Middleton
Audience: None

Explanation of High School Pathways

Ms. Middleton explained to committee members that Mr. Dague had been asked to create a document that showed the variety of high school programs that provided students with opportunities to earn college credit or obtain a certification while they attended EHS.

Mr. Dague provided the committee with an infographic outlining the six programs at EHS that prepare students for post-secondary studies and careers. The programs discussed were: Advanced Placement and Early College Experience, College Connections, College Career Pathways, articulations, High School Partnership, and certifications. Committee members asked how early in their high school careers are students are informed of these opportunities. It was explained that all these opportunities are always represented at the Program of Studies Night that current 8th grade students and their parents attend in February. This infographic is a new communication and will be available to hand out that evening. It was also discussed that it may be given out to all Grade 8 students as well. These opportunities are also revisited at Freshman Orientation. Guidance counselors and teachers also discuss these programs with students throughout their high school experience.

Committee members asked about scholarship opportunities specific to these programs. It was explained that for the College Connections students that continue onto Asnuntuck, the Pell Grant may be applicable if they qualify. Another possible opportunity for those students is sometimes there are industries that will sponsor scholarship opportunities for students.

Committee members would like us to work on making more people aware of these opportunities.

NGSS Shift and Science Scores

Mr. Ponte and Mr. Dague explained the major shifts in science standards, instruction, and assessment associated with the adoption in 2015 of the Next Generation Science Standards. They discussed shifts in practices, as well as the conceptual shifts. Students are now asked to make sense of phenomena in their lives, develop models to show their understanding, gather evidence to support their own claims, and engage in inquiry-based learning.

Committee members were shown examples of new standards and how content and skills are deepened on a grade level progression. The 8 Science and Engineering Principles were explained, as well as the four disciplinary core ideas. The progression of student models was

shown, as well as some video clips of students explaining their work. Committee members asked how students were assessed on these standards. The new performance task-based assessments were explained.

Ms. Middleton shared the results of the first ever state mandated NGSS Science Assessment given in the spring of 2019. Committee members were impressed by our results, especially those of Grade 11.

Proposed Change to Woods III

Mr. Dague proposed changing the prerequisite for Wood Tech III from “passed Wood Tech II” to “B or greater in Wood Tech II and recommendation from the teacher.” The reasoning behind this is to make sure all students in Wood Tech III are prepared for the independent design work required to be successful in this course.

Committee members agreed to this change.

Items from the Table:

Committee members asked if we offer sewing or home economics at EHS. It was explained that our Family and Consumer Science program at the high school offers courses around interior design; foods and nutrition and culinary; and child development courses, including an ECE option.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer