

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2015**

The October 21, 2015 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Neville, Chair at 4:57 PM.

Present: Tim Neville, Ray Peabody, Stacy Thurston, Meghann Burr, Joel Senez, John Dague, Cory O'Connell, Joshua Ogradowski, Chris Ponte, Marilyn Goodnite and Michelle Middleton

Audiences: None

New Business:

a. Program of Studies Proposed Changes:

Ms. Burr and Mr. Senez proposed eliminating Honors Psychology and replacing it with AP Psychology. Currently, psychology has two levels. This would provide students with another AP offering.

Committee members asked if this change would impact students wanting to take an upper level psychology. Mr. Senez explained the demand should stay about the same because more students may want to take this AP class. No additional resources are necessary because the current Honors AP text aligns with the AP curricular outline.

Committee members asked if students would be required to take the AP exam, the costs for the exam, the number of students taking the exam and the percentage of students that would receive discounts. Ms. Middleton stated that AP exams are encouraged, but not required due to the fees and she will get the requested information to committee members.

Ms. Burr reminded the committee members of the addition of Creative Writing course. The Program of Studies needs to reflect the Spanish study abroad program to be offered this summer. Students who participate will receive .5 credit. The committee previously approved all of these Humanities changes.

Mr. O'Connell explained that currently we offer three Microsoft Office courses that are antiquated. He proposed inactivating 573 and 574 and modernizing the language and content of 572. The proposed course (21st Century Student Technology) would teach students how to use all of the tools in the Office 365 suite.

Committee members asked which grade levels would be able to take the course and for examples of what skills would be taught. Mr. O'Connell stated the course would be open to students in grades 9-12.

Mr. Ogradowski explained the three culinary courses FACS is looking to introduce in 2016. EPS is trying to align our culinary arts with the expectations of the state. Culinary Arts I is the foundational course, Culinary Arts II is the transitional course, and Culinary Arts III is the advanced course. An explanation of these courses and their place in the new culinary kitchen at EHS was explained.

Committee members asked if this was akin to Café Rendezvous and would it be open to the public. Mr. O'Connell stated that is our ultimate goal. Students can take Culinary Arts III twice because it's experiential and students get different experiences from year to year. The two different culinary tracks

and the different CTE concentrations were explained to committee members. Mr. Ogrodowski explained the National Restaurant Association and the Pro-Start Program.

Committee members commented on the expense of the supplies for the course. Mr. Dague stated when the culinary kitchen is open to the public, costs could be offset. Mr. Ogrodowski added the National Restaurant Association has scholarships for supplies. Committee members were very excited with the vision of the culinary program.

Committee members approved all of the proposed Business and FACS changes.

Ms. Goodnite presented to add five course proposals to the Program of Studies. She explained she is not looking for additional staffing or funding. She proposed that each year EHS offers what they can based upon student requests.

Committee members were concerned that five courses is a lot, especially with the merge. M. Goodnite commented that the Secondary Education Reform Act will require one credit in fine arts. She also explained that one proposed course, Symphonic Band would help decrease the size of the marching band, which without Symphonic Band could equal 200 students; a group too large for effective instruction. Symphonic Band would also propose an alternative to those students who wanted to continue, but did not want to march.

Committee members asked how students would be able to sign up for Symphonic Band. Ms. Goodnite stated recommendation would be made by the teacher or course grade. Ms. Middleton stated principals are concerned that this would create leveled courses.

Committee members asked if this is compared to other high schools of similar size with our music course offerings in number and variety. Ms. Goodnite stated that we are low in both.

Committee members do not understand how we could add so many courses without increasing staff. Until a new schedule has been finalized for the high school, committee members would not approve these courses. Ms. Goodnite will return with the proposal after the schedule has been approved.

Mr. Ponte explained the rationale behind the proposed science changes. It was decided that the electives proposal would wait until after the schedule has been approved. In Grade 9, students will take either Biology or Integrated Physical Science.

Committee members approved the elimination of Earth Science for Grade 9. They also approved the addition of Everyday Science to be offered during the senior year for those students who have not yet met the science graduation requirement.

Committee members approved the removal of physics as a prerequisite for AP/UConn Chemistry and AP/UConn Biology.

Items from the Table - None

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer