

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 18, 2023**

The May 18, 2023, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Amanda Pickett at 5:01 PM.

Present: Amanda Pickett, Dr. Gerald Calnen and Jean Acree
Also Present: Michelle Middleton, Mark Dube, Madam Chair LeBlanc, Board Members Josh Hamre & Janet Cushman
Audience: Zach Zannoni

Middle School Health Textbook:

Ms. Middleton explained that Mr. Dube is here to present a proposed middle school health textbook, Glencoe Teen Health. The funding to purchase this book will come from our Title IV, Part A grant under the Safe and Healthy School section.

Mr. Dube explained to committee members that EPS has a skills-based health program based on seven skills. These skills are analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision making, goal setting, self-management, and advocacy. He further explained that these skills can be applied to any of the topics being taught in health. He explained his rationale for deciding upon this text. First, it will serve as a one stop shop for his middle school health teachers to find the fundamental information being presented to students. This text provides reputable and verified information from reliable sources. This text is a neutral resource that provides solid, unbiased, medically accurate information. It will also serve as a non-digital text for students to use as a resource in their health class. He feels that having students interact with physical text is still a valuable experience and is providing for students another way to learn beyond digital and iPads. Sixty copies of the book will be purchased, and they will remain in the classroom. Mr. Dube and his middle school health educators looked over this text, as well as other resources. This text aligns well with our existing curriculum. The skills used in the textbook are the same ones that are in our curriculum.

Mr. Dube showed committee members the Table of Contents, which lists all the modules (chapters) that are in the book. He explained that each grade level, 6-8, will be assigned different modules to cover depending on the topics that are in their grade level health curricular documents. He worked with his middle school staff to create the assignments. There is an optional supplement of four modules. These modules are not in the textbook. They cover the topics that fall under the units in our curriculum that have a parent opt out option. He brought attention to this because students whose parents opt them out of units will not be able to access that information in the book during another lesson because it is not there.

Committee members asked about opt out letters and the information they provide. Mr. Dube explained he has updated all opt out letters by enhancing content and topics covered during the unit. Letters are sent home with students, as well as emailed to parents.

Committee members approved the adoption of this textbook by a vote of 3-0.

K-12 Health Scope and Sequence:

Mr. Dube provided an overview of the topics covered in our K-12 health scope and sequence documents. He reiterated that we provide a skills-based health curriculum for our students in Grades K-12. Our curriculum contains functional information that is useable, applicable, and relevant. There is a focus on participatory methods used in the instruction in our health classes. Lessons are interactive and engaging for students, moving away from a focus on direct instruction. This is especially true at the high school level where students have a block class so there are a variety of learning tasks used in one period.

A committee member asked what happens if a student is introverted and does not want to participate. Mr. Dube explained that we provide options as to how the student can deliver the information that shows what they learned. We meet the students where they are. The standards in our curricular documents are from the Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework from the Connecticut State Department of Education. This document is based off the national health standards. In Grades K-3, health curriculum contains units on nutrition; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and personal health in disease prevention. Grades 4 and 5 have these same three units, but also add a unit on growth and development. In Grades 6-12, the health courses cover units on alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; family life and human sexuality; safety and injury prevention; nutrition; mental and emotional health; and disease prevention and control. Mr. Dube explained that the goal of our health curriculum is to empower students with knowledge. Mr. Dube pointed out the units that contain the opt out option. It was noted that in the Grade 12 Safety and Injury Prevention unit, students become CPR and First Aid certified.

A committee member noted literature that said children can learn to perform lifesaving techniques earlier. Mr. Dube explained that hands on only CPR is included in classes as early as Grade 6.

A committee member asked how far do we get into instruction of sex, gender, and gender identity in Grades 7 and 9. It was explained that in Grade 7 terms are defined and that is the extent of the instruction. The definitions used are textbook/medical definitions. In Grade 9, terms are defined again. Preferred pronouns are discussed, but not asked for.

A committee member asked how consent is taught. Mr. Dube explained that it is taught as a defending skill. Students are taught the importance of body language, facial expressions, and other nonverbal cues to indicate consent or lack thereof. Mr. Dube also explained that we teach the law and what that means.

A committee member asked if the Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) was used to assess our curricular content. It was explained that yes, we analyzed our curriculum documents with this tool.

Committee members thanked Mr. Dube for his presentation.

Items from the Table:

There were no items from the table. The next curriculum meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer