

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2021**

The January 21, 2021 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. LeBlanc 5:31 PM.

Present: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar and Joyce Hall

Absent: None

Also Present: Meghann Burr, John Dague, Deb Gaskell, Kerry Wiley, Mark Reppucci and Michelle Middleton

HS Health/PE Requirement Changes:

Ms. Middleton asked if we could table item 3a, HS Health/PE Requirement Changes, until the February meeting. Committee members agreed.

New English Electives:

Ms. Gaskell and Ms. Burr presented two new Grade 12 English electives to the committee for approval. The first course presented was Honors Advanced Composition and Peer Tutoring II. Ms. Burr explained that we are in the fifth year of operating our student run writing center, which functions as a part of Honors Advanced Composition and Peer Tutoring I. As with that course, this new course would have students attending a writing class where they work on refining their skills. Part of the requirements for both courses are that students will devote a certain number of hours to peer tutoring in the student-run writing center. Students in the Honors Advanced Composition and Peer Tutoring II course are students who have already taken the first course and would like to continue with the course. They will help train the students in Honors Advanced Composition and Peer Tutoring I to be effective tutors to their peers in the Writing Center.

The second course Ms. Burr and Ms. Gaskell discussed with the committee was Contemporary Black Literature. They explained that this is a course that students and teachers have been requesting for a few years. The three teachers who created the course proposal are members of Enfield High School's equity team and have been getting feedback from other team members as well. It was explained that we are working to further diversify our curriculum and empower our students of color. Ms. Burr explained that this course would cover literature that ranged from the 1950s to the present. She explained we focused on contemporary literature to make the time period less expansive. This course will offer a range of literature from poems to speeches to young adult novels.

Committee members asked if the literature would be teacher choice or student choice. It was explained that ideally, it would be a combination of both. Committee members approved both courses.

Music Changes:

Mr. Reppucci and Dr. Wiley brought a couple of proposed changes to high school music courses. Dr. Wiley explained that these are already existing courses within the Program of Studies, but we would like to make updates. The first course discussed was Jazz Ensemble. It was proposed that the prerequisite of teacher approval be removed. Mr. Reppucci explained that this would make the course less limiting and allow for more student choice. The second course discussed was Foundations of Music and Songwriting. It was proposed that the title be changed to Foundations of Music. Mr. Reppucci explained that having the word songwriting in the title is misleading to some students. He explained that he feels the title limits the course and he would like to provide more clarity. The purpose of this foundations course is developing musical literacy skills in reading, writing, and developing music.

Committee members asked if this is the only music theory course we offer. It was explained that currently it is. Committee members approved these changes.

Addition of Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Training Equipment:

Mr. Dague discussed our sequence of automotive offerings at Enfield High School. We have the Introduction to Automotive, Automotive Mechanics I, and Automotive Mechanics II. We have found that a gap in our curriculum is on the topic of hybrid and electric vehicles. Because of this, Mr. Dague is proposing that we order a trainer system, paid for by the Carl Perkins Grant, that could be used as part of the Automotive Mechanics II course and curriculum. He explained that it provides an introduction to topics and is a safe entry point for students into the area high voltage vehicles. A curriculum consisting of thirty hours of instruction is included with purchase. Also included is training for the instructor. The product comes with a perpetual license, so there is no annual fee.

Committee members asked if upgrades are included in the perpetual license; yes, they are. They also asked if Mr. Dague had been able to see the training system in person. He explained that it is produced by a company in Germany, but a community college instructor in New York had met virtually with him and our EHS teacher and walked them through the system. Committee members approved the purchase and curricular changes that would accompany the training system.

Appoint Curriculum Committee Secretary:

Mr. LeBlanc appointed Mrs. Hall as the Secretary of the Curriculum Committee

Items from the Table:

The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2021.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer