

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 30, 2023**

The January 30, 2023, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Tina LeBlanc at 5:00 PM.

Present: Tina LeBlanc, Dr. Gerald Calnen and Jean Acree
Absent: Amanda Pickett
Also Present: Michelle Middleton, Board Member Josh Hamre and Mark Reppucci
Audience: None

Program of Studies Changes:

Mr. Reppucci, our K-12 Music Coordinator, presented the committee with the proposal to add United Sound as a course at EHS (it is currently a club). This course would be offered both in the fall and the spring. This course is for students both with and without special needs. It will be staffed by a music teacher and a special education paraprofessional. Peer mentors will help teach the other students. They will instruct students on skills such as holding instruments and reading music. We will use the curriculum provided by United Sound in this course. In addition to musical skills, this course will provide students with opportunities for risk-taking, building communication skills, and relationship building. The mentors attend trainings to learn how to effectively work with and teach others.

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to adopt the United Sound course. This was unanimously approved by all Curriculum committee members.

Mr. Reppucci also shared some revisions he would like to make to his course descriptions in the Program of Studies. The changes being proposed are only revisions to the course descriptions themselves; there are no proposed title changes, level changes, or credit changes. These revised descriptions are a product of work completed by the EHS music department. Mr. Reppucci explained that he has a lot of new staff who wanted their input reflected in the courses. These changes also display the changes in education, including the addition of 21st century skills and an emphasis on national standards. These descriptions also highlight the performance demands in each of the courses. While the music department focuses on developing music performance skills, they also work on developing critical thinking skills, strengthening social skills, understanding historical and cultural influences, as well as performing, creating, connecting, and responding. The revised descriptions also include differentiated work for honors courses that is outlined for students and families.

A committee member commented that some of the software students can interact with in certain courses are products they would be using in the field of music, allowing them real-life, hands-on opportunities to become familiar with them in school. A committee member asked how heavy subject material is handled in the musical theater course. It was explained that the teacher is well-versed in the area and actually performs a great deal outside of EHS. She knows the material. Much of material used in class is presented in excerpts, so she can showcase a variety of works.

Mrs. Acree approved, seconded by Dr. Calnen to accept all changes as noted. This was unanimously approved by all Curriculum committee members.

Ms. Middleton proposed the idea of expanding the number of M course offerings in the Program of Studies at EHS. She explained that a course designated with an “M” in the Program of Studies is a course in which a student can meet the one-credit graduation requirement of Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment. In order to meet the requirements to earn the “M” credit, the students must meet specified requirements and showcase a year’s worth of work that addresses the EHS Priority Learning Expectations of Capable Communicators. Currently, the only courses in our Program of Studies that offer the ability to earn the “M” credit are US History and AP US History. We would like to expand the choices which students have to complete this requirement by designating the following courses as “M” credit opportunities: American Experience, English 11, AP Language and Composition, Spanish 4, French 4, Latin 3, and African American/Black and Latino/Puerto Rican History. It was explained that because this is a graduation requirement, we try to get students to complete this credit in their junior year. This way if a student is unsuccessful, they have their senior year to revise their project and earn the credit.

A committee member asked if we are looking at science options. It was explained that we would like to have opportunities in all content areas eventually.

Dr. Calnen approved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to add the courses as “M” courses. This was unanimously approved by all Curriculum committee members.

Ms. Middleton proposed changing the Course Change Procedure at EHS. The only change being proposed to the current procedure is the number of school days a student has to withdraw from a course. Currently, the number is twenty; the proposed change is fourteen. The reasoning for change is that the twentieth day of school is less than a week away from progress notes. Also, if a student changes a course towards the end of the twenty day window, they will have a great deal of make-up work in the new course in which they are enrolled. The fourteen days would mean that students who make a change near the enter of the window, will have less missed content in their new course.

Mrs. Acree approved, seconded by Dr. Calnen to accept the course change procedure. This was unanimously approved by all Curriculum committee members.

Items from the Table:

The next Curriculum meeting will be held on February 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer