

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2023**

The December 20, 2023, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mrs. Acree at 5:00 PM.

Present: Jean Acree, Janet Cushman & Amanda Pickett
Absent: None
Also Present: Board members Charlotte Riley, Gerald Calnen & Peter Jonaitis
Mark Reppucci, John Dague & Michelle Middleton
Audience: Danielle Girard & Zachary Zannoni

Program of Studies Changes:

a) Music

Mr. Reppucci presented a revised version of the introductory statement that is currently found in our Program of Studies. This statement was written several years ago by the previous coordinator. The proposed new version celebrates the intrinsic value of music, application of content, and students having hands-on experiences. The suggested revisions reflect the department's work and are aligned to the National Core Arts Standards.

A committee member asked how the coordinator came up with the proposed changes. He explained that he worked with his department members to create the statement.

A committee member commented that the current statement contains phrases referencing critical thinking and problem solving, while those are not directly referenced in the revised version. There was discussion as to where those skills fit into the new statement, as well as individual courses.

Committee members approved the change.

Mr. Reppucci also proposed changes to the course descriptions of three courses: Music Technology, Digital Audio, and Jazz Ensemble. He explained that the changes to Music Technology and Digital Audio were necessary because he was removing the use of Garage Band from Music Technology. The reason behind this change is that Garage Band is too easily accessible and students entering the class already know how to use it. He is proposing making a change where both Music Technology and Digital Audio use Logic Pro. To make both classes viable, he will use the more advanced features of Logic Pro in Digital Audio.

A committee member asked why the phrase "a functional knowledge of music, technology, piano, and music theory would be helpful" was being removed from the description of Digital Audio. It was explained that there is no musical composition in that course anymore. With the advancement of technology, it is not something students do in the same way they used to.

A committee member asked if there is a demand for these two courses. There are multiple sections of each running this year.

Mr. Reppucci then asked that a prerequisite of Teacher Approval be added for Jazz Ensemble. We used to have this prerequisite before the pandemic, but because Covid impacted the skills of students, we removed the prerequisite to encourage more students to sign up for the course. Now

the course is expanding, and the teacher is encountering varying levels of ability and many different instruments. The course demands a higher improvisation level than some students possess, so adding Teacher Approval would allow the teacher to see if students are ready and into what section they should be placed.

A committee member asked if there is a rubric that is used. It was explained that a few rubrics are used to assess students.

A committee member asked if a student is not ready, is there a course they can take to improve their skills. Mr. Reppucci explained that the Concert Band and Marching Band would both help students build their skills. A committee member noticed that it says the course can be repeated and asked how many times. It was explained that they can take it all four years since every performance and concert is a different curriculum.

Committee members approved all three Music course descriptions.

b) Career Planning

This course will be for students who are working on credit recovery in another course but may not need the entire semester to finish. Because they are scheduled into the credit recovery for a semester, EHS Administration asked if we could offer this .5 credit course through Edgenuity, our online platform. Students would be counseled into this course if they were the right fit. The course would be coded as Business.

A committee member asked that we keep an eye on how many students are using Edgenuity for credit recovery.

Committee members approved this course.

c) Personal Finance

Due to the upcoming mandate of personal financial management and financial literacy becoming a graduation requirement for the Class of 2027, we are proposing two new courses: 1) Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy - Humanities and 2) Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy - Business. They would both be .5 credit and count toward the .5 credit graduation requirement, but one would live in the Social Studies Department, and one would live in the Business Department. Both courses would be based on the same set of standards and would address personal financial decisions and issues. The Humanities course would have an additional lens of global aspects and how they impact financial decisions, while the Business course would be taught through a business and career lens. It was explained that the courses are being offered in two different departments to ensure staffing sustains sections due to the mandate of it being a graduation requirement. This requirement cannot be filled in the mathematics department. The statute outlines the .5 credit in Personal Financial Management and Financial Literacy may be used toward the 9 credits in Humanities or as an elective credit. As a result, this course may no longer be used as a cross-over credit in mathematics.

Committee members approved these courses.

d) Wood Technology

Ms. Middleton explained that this course was placed on the agenda in error. The change to the prerequisite was made during the 2022-2023 school year.

e) Auto 2

Mr. Dague explained that this course is meant to be selective. It is intended for students to have a simulated work experience and be assigned repair tasks they can complete independently. Because this course works on customer vehicles, there obviously needs to be a safety focus. The current prerequisite states, "Passing Competencies in Auto Mechanics 1." The competencies are tasks related to repair and maintenance that students show they can successfully complete. We would like to add "and Teacher Recommendation" to the prerequisite. This will allow the teacher to ensure that students are enrolled who not only have passed the competencies but who can also work independently on such tasks. Mr. Dague explained this course is intended for students who will enter an automotive repair career after high school.

Committee members approved this change.

Items from the Table:

1. Mr. Jonaitis asked to discuss the absence of modified classes and whether they can be brought back. Ms. Middleton asked some clarifying questions and will put this discussion on the January 25 agenda.
2. Ms. Middleton gave the committee members a list of proposed meeting dates for 2024. The committee had no requested changes.
3. Mrs. Pickett asked for the newly formatted Program of Studies to be demonstrated at a Board of Education meeting. She feels it is important for families to see the multiple offerings and pathways we have, as well as to receive information as to how to access it.
4. A question was asked about which local businesses support Enfield Public Schools. Ms. Middleton will bring a list to a future committee meeting.
5. Mrs. Cushman asked if Ms. Middleton has heard of The Respect Project. Ms. Middleton has not. Mrs. Cushman explained a little bit about it and is sending Ms. Middleton information through the chair.

The next curriculum meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer