

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2021**

The December 9, 2021, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Amanda Pickett at 5:35 PM.

Present: Amanda Pickett, Dr. Gerald Calnen and Jean Acree
Absent: None
Also Present: Michelle Middleton, Joel Senez, Meghann Burr, Jay LaMesa, Kerry Wiley, John Dague, Janet Cushman and Joshua Hamre

Program of Studies Change - Addition of State-Mandated Black and Latino Studies Course:

Dr. Burr distributed a handout explaining this course. In June 2019, CT PA 19-12 was passed to develop an African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino course at the high school level. The legislation also identified SERC as the entity that would develop the curriculum for this course. Dr. Burr explained that this course is a required elective offering by the State of Connecticut. It is to be offered to juniors and seniors. Students are not required to take the course, but Enfield High School is required to offer it. The handout listed the units of study for this course. This course is a one-credit full year course.

Mr. Senez and Dr. Burr explained that EHS teachers would receive curriculum writing hours over the summer to review the curriculum SERC has provided. It was explained that this curriculum document is very well-developed and contains pacing guides, unit guides, and fully developed lesson plans. Mr. Senez also mentioned that SERC, as well as other districts who piloted the course this school year, may be offering professional development opportunities and/or serving as liaisons for schools starting to offer the course next year.

Committee members asked how the teacher for the course would be determined. Mr. Senez noted that any certified social studies teacher can teach the course. He also explained that there would be conversations among administration and teachers, but teachers with a strong background in this particular topic would be considered.

Committee members asked how many sections would run. Mr. Senez explained that would depend upon student interest and we would not know that until simple tallies are calculated in the spring.

Committee members asked if there will be support systems in place for teachers because some of the subject matter in this course can be acrimonious. Mr. Senez explained that dealing with controversial topics is inherent to social studies, but that additional supports can be added. It was also asked if there would be supports for students. Mr. Senez explained that his staff already has strategies in place to debrief with students who may be bothered or triggered by subject matter, but additional supports can be explored.

Committee members asked whether this course could prepare students for any college level courses. Both Dr. Burr and Mr. Senez both gave examples of how work done in this course could be explored further at the college level.

Committee members approved the addition of this course to the Program of Studies.

Program of Studies Changes - High School Mathematics Revisions:

Mr. LaMesa and Dr. Wiley submitted a variety of changes to mathematics in the Program of Studies. First, name changes for our AP Statistics and Probability (1 credit) and Statistics and Probability (.5

credit) courses were discussed. Mr. LaMesa proposed removing “and Probability” from both titles. The reasoning behind this change is that the official name of the College Board’s course is AP Statistics. The new names would be AP Statistics (1 credit) and Statistics (.5 credit). This change would match the College Board’s title and make both course titles aligned.

Next, Mr. LaMesa proposed some prerequisite changes. The first is to change the prerequisite for the .5 credit Statistics course from Geometry to Algebra I. This would allow students to take this course earlier in their high school journey. The second suggested prerequisite change is to remove the grade requirement of B- or higher in Honors Precalculus to enroll in AP Calculus.

Committee members were concerned that having lower than a B- in Honors Precalculus may not prepare students enough for AP Calculus. It was explained that students who have received below a B- in Honor Precalculus in the past, which is a very demanding class, have been successful in AP Calculus. Supports for students were also discussed.

Mr. LaMesa proposed some changes to the Computer Programming course sequence. Currently, we offer Computer Programming 1 and Computer Programming 2. It was explained that these courses were introduced well before we added AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A to our course offerings. Because AP Computer Science Principles is meant to be an introductory course, it is open to all students 9-12, it is redundant to then have Computer Programming 1 and Computer Programming 2 to then feed into AP Computer Science A. Mr. LaMesa proposed changing Computer Programming 1 to Computer Programming and dropping Compute Programming 2 from the Program of Studies.

Mr. LaMesa next proposed adding a new .5 credit mathematics elective to the Program of Studies. This course would be called Advanced Math Applications. The purpose of this course would be to support student learning in Geometry and Algebra II. This course would give some students flexibility in their ability to meet their 4-credit graduation requirement in math. It would expand upon the content of SAT math and allow for additional problem-solving opportunities. It was also proposed that SAT math be removed from the Program of Studies.

The last item that Mr. LaMesa shared and proposed was an updated Mathematics Course Progressions page for the Program of Studies. It was explained that when the new CCS mathematics standards came out several years ago, we only had a 3-credit mathematics graduation requirement. To ensure that students were exposed to four years of standards in three credits, all standards were put into Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Now that we have a 4-credit requirement, we can put the statistics standards into their own course(s). The progressions page shows possible course sequences for students, as well as a recommended order of courses.

There was a great deal of discussion about the clarity and flexibility of this graphic. It was pointed out by one committee member that guidance counselors and teachers also help parents and students with these decisions. There were also questions about supports in place for students who struggle in math, as well as options for students to meet the 4-credit requirement if they are not planning to enter a four-year college after EHS.

Committee members agreed to all proposed mathematics Program of Studies changes.

Program of Studies Change -Addition of Exploratory Health Science and Foundations of Health Science Electives:

Mr. Dague explained to the committee that EHS and Alternative Education students are continuing to express interest in a variety of health science and personal service careers. Although we brought in the EMT certification program a few years ago, this does not meet the needs of all students. Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) offers a variety of licensure careers and certificate programs,

many of which could be free through the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) or SNAP/TFE to eligible students.

Mr. Dague proposed offering two new .5 credit science elective courses to introduce students to the possible careers these programs may offer, as well as prepare them for taking part in these programs after high school. Mr. Dague worked with the EPS Science Department Coordinator and someone from ACC to develop a list of topics that should be covered in these courses.

The first course is Exploratory Health Science. This course would introduce students to the range of health science and personal service careers, as well as the foundational knowledge that is common among them. Other topics studied would be infection control; legal and ethical requirements; and measuring and recording practices. The second course would be Foundations of Health Science. This course will include some anatomy and physiology, common medical terminology, and effective communication necessary to most health professions.

Mr. Dague explained that these courses help to fix some of the inequities that we have in our course selection. We are strong on the top end of advanced courses in science, but we are trying to expand the options in career readiness for students who are not on an honors track. These courses would be open to students in Grades 9-12 and add another .5 credit elective, which always helps with scheduling.

Committee members asked if these courses are replicating the community college courses or preparing students for them. It was explained that these courses are preparing students for the community college courses.

Committee members approved the addition of these courses.

Student Video Project Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett proposed that this item be tabled until the January meeting.

Discussion of Future Curriculum Committee Dates:

Committee members decided that they liked the meeting date of the 3rd Thursday of the month, as has been past practice. Committee members unanimously approved changing the time of the meetings to 5:00 PM, instead of 5:30 PM.

Appoint Curriculum Committee Secretary for 2021-2023:

After the responsibilities of secretary were explained Jean Acree was unanimously appointed as the committee secretary. She accepted the position.

Items from the Table: None

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer