

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 16, 2015

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, October 16, 2015 from 1:05-1:57 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Present were: Board of Education members Gary Blanchette, Tracey Kiff-Judson and Kristen Picard-Wambolt. Andrew McNamar was absent. Also present were Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Neil Rinaldi, Principal, Ellington High School; and Bill Prenetta and Jennifer Blalock, EHS Teachers.

Mr. Prenetta presented a new course proposal, *Technical Theater*. This will be a half year course which will give students hands-on experience related to construction and implementation of theatrical scenery, lighting, sound, publicity, costumes and make-up. Students will learn about the many jobs associated with theater that are “behind the scenes”. A complete description is included in the attachment to the meeting minutes. Members of the Board expressed enthusiasm for this proposal.

Mrs. Blalock presented a proposal for a new course, *Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles*. This will be a full year course, preparing students for the AP exam which will first be given in the spring of 2017. The course is designed to focus on using technology to address real-world problems and build relevant solutions. Mrs. Blalock also described the CS50XEHS course, which is currently running as a part of the Academic Enhancement program. About a dozen students and two community members will participate in this course from HarvardX and come together at EHS for a workshop-based model of support. The members of the Board expressed enthusiasm and support for the proposal and for creating this opportunity for students.

Dr. McGurk updated the committee on the CSDE assessment calendar for the current school year. Mr. Rinaldi reported that the PSAT and PSAT 9 administration at the high school went very well. The date for administration of the SAT as the state accountability assessment have not yet been established.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made at 1:57 p.m.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Gary Blanchette, Curriculum Committee Chairperson

Proposed New EHS Courses for 2016-17

Board of Education Curriculum Committee October 16, 2015

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Heterogeneous Class AP

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1 credit

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles will give students the opportunity to use technology to address real-world problems and build relevant solutions. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

AP Computer Science Principles focuses on the innovative aspects of computing as well as the computational thinking practices that help students see how computing is relevant to many areas of their everyday lives.

The AP Computer Science Principles assessment consists of two parts: completion of through-course performance tasks and the end-of-course AP Exam. Both of these will measure student achievement of the course learning objectives. For the through-course assessment, students will upload digital artifacts and written responses via a Web-based digital portal.

TECHNICAL THEATER

Heterogeneous

Class Academic

Grade 10-12

1 Semester

½ credit

This course is designed to give the student a hands-on introductory experience in each of the technical elements involved in creating a theatrical production. Students will be exposed to the processes and procedures for the construction and implementation of theatrical scenery, lighting, sound, publicity, costumes and make-up. Safety procedures, building technique, terminology and technology, project management, and organization will be emphasized.