

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 2014

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, October 17, 2014 from 1:00-2:05 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 Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Neil Rinaldi, Principal, Ellington High School; Michele Cirillo, Curriculum Supervisor; Nadia DeRoy, Jen Plis, Jason Scavotto, and Deb Slattery, EHS Teachers; and Bob Testa, Vernon Public Schools.

Mrs. DeRoy presented a new course proposal, *UCONN ECE French*. This will be a full year, college level course conducted in French which will allow students to earn 6 UCONN credits upon receipt of at least a C in the course. A complete description is included in the attachment to the meeting minutes. Members of the Board expressed enthusiasm for this proposal.

Mr. Scavotto presented a proposal for a new course, *Speech and Debate*. This course will be offered at the academic and honors levels and will be one semester in length offering .5 credit. Mr. Rinaldi and Dr. McGurk reported that the success of the Mock Trial club has spurred interest in this topic. The members of the Board expressed enthusiasm and support for the proposal and for creating this opportunity for students.

Mrs. Slattery presented a proposed new course, *Fashion Design*. This course will be offered at the academic level as an elective for students in grades 9-12 and will be one semester in length offering .5 credit. The committee discussed the course and several issues related to implementation, such as the classroom setup with sewing machines and potential costs in terms of possible need for electrical or carpentry work and the potential impact on enrollment in other courses in the department. Mr. Rinaldi will investigate further and report back to the committee at the December meeting.

Mrs. Plis presented a proposed new course, *Yoga for Health and Fitness*. This course will be offered at the academic level as an elective for students in grades 11-12 and will be one semester in length offering .5 credit. The committee discussed the course and potential budget implications, which would be small costs associated with additional yoga mats, blocks and straps. The members of the Board expressed support for the proposal.

Dr. McGurk and Mrs. Cirillo updated the committee on summer curriculum projects, including revision of units in high school English classes to support book clubs and independent reading, revision of the Spanish I and II curricula, work on the development of math support classes at the

high school, development of a new curriculum for Algebra II and the development of the curriculum for new courses, including AP Biology and Journalism in the 21st Century.

Dr. McGurk updated the committee on the implementation of the new mathematics programs in grades K-5 and in grade 7 and 8. Mrs. Mancuso, the district K-8 Mathematics Specialist, is providing ongoing professional development for teachers and is working with the elementary principals to develop additional information and presentations for parents.

The committee briefly discussed cursive handwriting instruction at the elementary level. At this time, students will continue to receive instruction in cursive, beginning with formation of lower case letters in grade two.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 5, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:05 p.m.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Proposed New EHS Courses for 2015-2016
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UCONN FRENCH ECE 3267 and 3268

Heterogeneous Class ECE

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1 credit

This course is conducted in French and is designed for those students with a serious interest in the French language, history, literature and culture. There will be a thorough review of French grammar and style with a particular emphasis on perfecting written and oral expression. This course will emphasize the study of French and Francophone culture through fiction, non-fiction, journalism and film. Students will be expected to read and analyze authentic prose and poetry, and will develop an appreciation of the various genres through intensive literary analysis. Films, as a voice of cultural, artistic and political expression will be viewed and analyzed in class. Emphasis will be placed on perfecting both oral and written expression through discussions, presentations, and compositions on assigned topics. Conversational units that are thematic and current in nature will allow students to enrich their conversational skills.

This course is a college course. UConn ECE is a concurrent enrollment program that allows students to receive both high school and college credit for this course. The six credits earned transfer into UConn and many other institutions. Grades below a C are listed as "audit", showing only that the student has attended the course. UConn ECE students are non-degree UConn students and are eligible for a variety of university benefits. Students in French V who have registered with the ECE program, and who have received at least a C in this class will be awarded 6 UCONN credits (FREN 3267/3268). Students must take this course for the whole year in order to receive credit.

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Heterogeneous Class Academic/Honors

Grade 12

1 Semester

.5 credit

By gaining a mastery of the spoken word, students will develop the skills necessary for being successful in all public speaking endeavors. This class will begin by exploring how the body and voice can be combined with writing to create deep meaning. Students will create, and then conduct, informative, instructional, persuasive, and research-based speeches. In addition, students will master the techniques needed for successful interviewing skills. Finally, the course will explore debate structure and students will participate in formal debates about contemporary issues.

FASHION DESIGN

Heterogeneous Class Academic

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

This course is designed to provide students with understanding the role fashion plays in their lives and the lives of others. Students will learn about the US and global textile apparel industry from a historical view to 21st Century fashion, including the economics of production and manufacturing. The impact that fashion designers such as Michael Kors, Vera Wang, Jimmy Choo, Versace, and Marc Jacobs have on the fashion industry and trends will be a focus, along with personal and professional lifestyles and a look into career opportunities in textiles and apparel. In addition, students will learn how to construct, alter, and accessorize apparel.

YOGA FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

Heterogeneous Class Academic

.5 credit

This elective course is open to students who have already earned credit in PE 1. This course is designed to introduce students to the postures, breathing techniques and relaxation methods of Vinyasa flow yoga. Through this course, students will build a flexible strong body, dissolve tensions, and improve body composition. Participation will also improve one's psychological/mental well being by increasing both self confidence and mental clarity. Over the course of the class, students will progress from a beginner's level to the more advanced stage of Power yoga. Students will be evaluated on their daily active participation and written unit quizzes.