

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 8, 2015

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Friday, May 8, 2015 from 1:03-2:25 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Present were: Board of Education members Tracey Kiff-Judson and Gary Blanchette; Kristen Picard-Wambolt and Andrew McNamar were absent. Also present were Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services; David Pearson, Principal, Ellington Middle School; Neil Rinaldi, Ellington High School Principal; Michele Cirillo, Curriculum Supervisor; Scott Nicol, Superintendent-Elect; and Rachel Dio-Rand, EMS teacher.

Mr. Pearson and Ms. Dio-Rand made a presentation on student-led conferences at the middle school. Mr. Pearson gave a definition of personalization, courtesy of the League of Innovative Schools, and discussed the concept of student-focused accountability for learning. The middle school has been engaged in preparation and study for the implementation of student-led conferences in the 2015-16 school year. Mrs. Dio-Rand explained steps that have been taken to support this work, including a planning committee and teacher book study group.

The conferences will be held in December and March of next year. Each will be about 20 minutes long, with the student leading a conversation about individual growth and continuing goals. Mr. Pearson is planning the publication of supporting materials for parents to help them be active, positive participants in the process. The work that is underway district-wide to support implementation of digital portfolios will be very important as a tool to support student reflection. Mr. Pearson agreed to provide an update on implementation of student-led conferences to the BOE Curriculum Committee in January, 2016.

Finally, Mr. Pearson shared a flyer on the upcoming Digital Learning Week at EMS and invited Board members to drop in.

Mr. Rinaldi presented an update on the investigation into online learning opportunities for high school students, which is part of the Multi-Year Academic and Support Plan in relation to challenge and personalization. He shared a definition of online learning and possible applications at the high school, including credit recovery, supplemental student support, and expansion of the Program of Studies by making courses not available at EHS available online to interested students. Mr. Rinaldi presented a profile of the type of student who is typically successful in online learning, and several options for the high school including Virtual High School and Virtual Learning Academy. Ellington may purchase blocks of seats or individual seats as needed.

The committee discussed other considerations, including which courses should be made available and who should bear the costs. At this time, students who attend Rockville High School

for credit recovery must bear the costs for any courses taken. The committee directed Mr. Rinaldi to move forward with advertising the availability of programs to parents, with parents to assume the costs. Based on interest and need, the committee will consider other options in the future.

Mrs. Cirillo presented the text that has been selected for UCONN ECE French. The text, *Imaginez 3rd Edition* from Vista Higher Learning, is one of the textbooks approved by UCONN for this course.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:25 p.m.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. G. Blanchette

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Gary Blanchette, Curriculum Committee

ELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ellington, CT

RECOMMENDATION FOR TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Title of Recommended Textbook: Imaginez 3 rd edition		
Author(s): Séverine Champeny		
Publisher: Vista Higher Learning	Copyright Date: 2016	
Textbook to be used in grade(s): 12		
Course Title: French V/ECE UCONN		
Levels Honors: Honors		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Textbook	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement for the following text:	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement to the following text:
Title and copyright date of textbook to be replaced or supplemented: N/A		
Reasons for addition/replacement/supplementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We currently have no textbook for this level▪ Use a textbook that provides students with an active learning experience to continue to strengthen their language skills, and develop their cultural competency.		
Other textbooks considered during the review process: <i>Face à Face</i>		
Selection Committee: Michelle Cirillo and Nadia DeRoy.		
Criteria used for evaluation of the textbook: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The linguistic content is appropriate to the course level▪ Engaging vocabulary centered on thematic units▪ Cultural thematic units that inform and engage students in learning about the multiple facets of the francophone world.		
Key Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ An emphasis on authentic language and practical vocabulary for communicating in real-life situations▪ Clear, comprehensive, and logically sequenced grammatical concepts.▪ Numerous guided and communicative activities.▪ A cultural focus integrated throughout thematic units.▪ Engaging short-subject dramatic films by contemporary francophone filmmakers that tie in the lesson theme▪ Short and comprehensible literary and cultural readings that promote and inform about the diversity of the francophone world.▪ Variety of print and online resources to accommodate the learners' diversity.		
Rationale for selecting this text: To help students continue to strengthen their language skills, it is important to take an interactive, communicative approach based on a differentiated instruction that reaches and engages all learners, regardless of their learning styles. <i>Imaginez</i> features various sections that engage students while integrating		