

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 18, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, October 18, 2013, from 1:00-2:15 p.m. in the School Administration Building. Present were: Mr. Stephen C. Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Erin K. McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Mr. Neil Rinaldi, EHS Principal; Mrs. Michele Cirillo and Mrs. Liz Cole, Curriculum Supervisors; Mrs. Amy White, Mr. Timothy Gorton and Mrs. Ann Johnson, Ellington teachers; and Mr. Gary Blanchette, Mrs. Tracey Kiff Judson, Mrs. Kristen Picard-Wambolt, and Mr. James Stoughton, members of the Board of Education.

MINUTES

Dr. McGurk distributed an overview of the new courses being presented (attached). Mr. Gorton and Mrs. Johnson teach science at EHS. They presented a new course proposal for Advanced Placement Biology. This course would increase the number of AP courses in science, which currently offers AP Chemistry and AP Environmental Science. The committee discussed the number of students who might be interested in such a course, the possible impact on staffing and the materials needed.

Mrs. White teaches Latin at EHS. She presented a new course proposal for Advanced Placement Latin. Mrs. White described the summer training for the AP course and shared some of the topics to be covered in the course. Mrs. White shared a draft budget for the materials required by the new course.

Mr. Rinaldi presented a proposal for conducting PSAT testing for sophomores on a school day. He shared data samples that show some of the information that could be made available to teachers within weeks after the fall administration of the PSAT. The committee discussed the advantages and issues related to weekday administration and whether district funding should be used to cover the costs of the test administration.

Dr. McGurk presented an update on the changes in the reporting system used at the middle school and intermediate school. She explained the current use of this standards-based system in grades K to 4. This fall, the current system will be expanded to the intermediate school, which will create a unified grading system K-6.

The district Multi-Year Academic and Support Plan was distributed to committee members. It will be on the agenda for the November meeting. Committee members were asked to review the document prior to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be on Friday, November 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

**Board of Education
Curriculum Committee
Review of Proposed Courses for the 2014-15 School Year
Ellington High School**

Proposed new courses:

<u>ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATIN</u>		AP
Grade 12	Full Year	1 credit

The AP Latin course is designed to develop and increase each student's ability to read, literally translate, and analyze Latin texts in both poetry and prose. The primary texts to be studied in depth are Vergil's *Aeneid*, and Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*. The AP Latin curriculum follows the Curriculum Requirements as determined by the College Board's AP Latin Curriculum Framework. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement test which is administered in May.

<u>ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY</u>		AP
Grade 11-12	Full Year	1 credit

AP Biology is an advanced course for qualified and highly self-motivated science students who have a strong foundation in biology and chemistry. This course meets the objectives of a general biology course on a college level and is often taken as a second high school biology course by those students who have an exceptional interest in life science. Students will be expected to spend an extensive amount of time outside of the classroom to research and prepare for laboratory investigations and classroom discussions. The curriculum is organized around the fundamental principles and concepts of molecular and cellular structure, heredity, evolution, organisms, and populations. This course is designed to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills. A minimum of 25% of this course will be focused on laboratory investigations. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment, due on the first day of school, and to take the AP Biology exam in May.

Prerequisites: Open to juniors and seniors who have successfully completed biology and chemistry.