

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 7, 2011

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Friday, October 7, 2011, from 1:30-2:15 p.m. in the School Administration Building. Present were: Mr. Stephen C. Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Erin K. McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Mrs. Lynn Ouellet, Ellington teacher; Mrs. Fran Zampini, Ellington teacher; Mr. Ken Gardiner, Ellington teacher; Mr. Neil Rinaldi, principal of Ellington High School, 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 to these minutes). Mrs. Ouellet teaches social studies classes at EHS. She presented an overview of a new course proposed for inclusion in the Program of Studies for the 2011-12 school year. The course, designed by Mrs. Ouellet and Mr. William Prenetta, is titled, "Global Literature and Perspectives" and is designed to be collaboratively taught by Mrs. Ouellet, a social studies teacher, and Mr. Prenetta, an English teacher. Mrs. Ouellet shared the course description. Dr. McGurk discussed the plan to convert English IV from a year long course to several semester courses. More course proposals related to this plan will be shared at the December meeting.

Mrs. Zampini teaches science at EHS. She presented a new course proposal for Advanced Placement Environmental Science. The science department at EHS currently offers only one AP course, AP Chemistry. Mrs. Zampini described the summer training for the AP course and shared some of the topics to be covered in the course and the relationship to future careers.

Mr. Gardiner teaches social studies at EHS. He presented a new course proposal for Advanced Placement Psychology. This course would increase the number of AP courses in social studies to three. He described the summer training for the AP course and some of the topics to be covered in the course.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be on Friday, December 9, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

**Board of Education
Curriculum Committee
Review of Proposed Courses for the 2012-13 School Year
Ellington High School**

Proposed new courses:

<u>GLOBAL LITERATURE AND PERSPECTIVES</u>	Level 1
Grade 10-12	1 Semester
	.5 Credit

Global Literature and Perspectives focuses on works of non-fiction, memoir and historical fiction from the 20th century to the present. This course will provide students with specific interests in history and literature an opportunity to examine global issues from various perspectives. Students will choose works of particular interest to read and study, research the history behind the stories, and make presentations in a variety of formats to convey their findings to the rest of the class. Thematic focuses are diversity, identity, ethics and society.

<u>ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</u>	AP
Grades 11-12	Full Year
	1 credit

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement test which is administered in May. Prerequisites: The AP Environmental Science course is an excellent option for any interested student who has completed two years of high school laboratory science — one year of life science and one year of physical science (for example, a year of biology and a year of chemistry), and who are willing to take on the challenge of rigorous academic work both in the classroom and in the field.

<u>ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY</u>	AP
Grade 11-12	Full Year
	1 Credit

Advanced Placement Psychology offers highly motivated students the opportunity to study the equivalent of a college level introductory psychology course. This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. Advanced Placement Psychology provides instruction in each of the following 14 content areas: History and Approaches, Research Methods, Biological Bases of Behavior, Sensation and Perception, States of Consciousness, Learning, Cognition, Motivation and Emotion, Developmental Psychology, Personality, Testing and Individual Differences, Abnormal Psychology, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, and Social Psychology. The course is designed to expose students to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology, as well as provide an understanding of the ethics and methods used in the practice of psychology. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement test which is administered in May. Summer reading is required.