

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**

Curriculum Subcommittee
of the
Trumbull Board of Education
Trumbull High School
Upper Media Center – WL Table
Regular Meeting – February 6, 2015

Called to order at 7:50 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Ward, Board member
Rosemary Seaman, Board member
Joe Peddle, Board member
Linda S. Paslov, Ed.D., Part-time Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction,
and Assessments

Invited Guests: Candy Perusi (Trumbull High School World Language Department Chair)
Benjamin Brust (Trumbull High School Latin teacher)
Kathy Rubano (Trumbull High School Social Studies Department Chair)
Katie Boland (Trumbull High School Social Studies teacher)

1. Approval/Minutes of November 7, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Ward moved to accept the minutes as written; Dr. Paslov seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Textbook Requests

- *Imaginez* (2012) – For French 4 and French 4 Honors (current text is 19 years old and does not follow the thematic approach available in previous texts, as well as the French 5 and 5H texts.)
- *Cambridge Latin Course – Units 1 and 2* (2012) – For Latin 1 and Latin 2 (current texts are 10 and 15 years old respectively and do not meet standards for modern language learning)

(see New Textbook Review/Approval/Approval Process forms for more details)

Both books were discussed at length. Mrs. Perusi spoke about how the requested French 4/4H textbook would be used “part-time” in the courses, as another book (18 years old, but still appropriate) would still be utilized for readings. The new text would be used to supplement the heavy civilization elements of French 4. As most texts for advanced French courses are geared toward the college student (and often discuss “roommates”), a book targeting high school users is hard to come by. Vista Higher Learning (the company) also has a good website with online components, including listening and visual exercises for home use. The book is colorful, and not very expensive at about \$65 each. We have budgeted funds in this 2014-15 school year to purchase them.

Mr. Brust discussed his assigned mission to “grow Latin” at THS. There are now 9 classes and, with the addition of a proposed 0.2 FTE in 2015-16, there will be 10 sections of Latin. The “old” textbook currently being utilized in Latin 1 and 2 (Ecce Romani) does not meet standards for modern language learning and classical language learning. (It focuses on a “reading

approach” to learning Latin.) The requested text is broken down thematically and, while there are still stories to read, they are adaptable for use in teaching other skills (writing, speaking). Mrs. Seaman noted that the text was very engaging, and pointed to stories about Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii. Mr. Brust mentioned that Cambridge Press offered good supplementary materials (including Smartboard resources and “games”), as well as unique “characters” (like the zany chef). Grammar points are embedded in each chapter, rather than chapters focusing on a single grammar topic (such as present tense). Eventually, Cambridge Press texts for Latin 3 and 4 will be requested. This current textbook request is for purchase during the 2015-16 school year, with funding already in the budget request that has not yet been approved/adopted.

Moved: Imaginez (2012) will be brought to the February 12, 2015 BOE meeting for approval and adoption, under the Consent Agenda. Cambridge Latin Course – Units 1 and 2 (2012) will be brought to a future BOE meeting for approval and adoption in the 2015-16 school year, under the Consent Agenda, once the final budget has been set.

3. CP, ACP, H US Political Systems curriculum guides

Mrs. Rubano and Ms. Boland discussed their newly-adjusted CP, ACP, H US Political Systems curriculum guides. All should note that the curriculum is the same for all three levels of the course (crucial in meeting NCAA guidelines): only the textbook utilized is different. (Ms. Boland mentioned that new textbooks are being requested for the CP and ACP-level courses next year. The current ACP text was written right after 9/11 occurred in 2001. The ACP text needs to be written at a higher (college) level. The Honors level book was recently replaced.) Project Citizen – the capstone experience required of all grade 12 students – has been revamped in this new curriculum guide. Now, an iChange Film Festival is held highlighting student documentaries that are completed, in groups, via google docs. Unit 1 remains intact from earlier curriculum guides. Unit 2 focuses on the 3 branches of government; in the past, these 3 branches were addressed in 3 separate units. Unit 3 addresses “Constitutional Freedoms.” Unit 4’s focus is “Citizenship in Action.” There are assured experiences at the end of each unit, including such things as creating mock Facebook pages. Standards have been updated throughout, and include 21st century skills and technology. Critical reading, research skills, and teamwork are all a focus of the course. The philosophy (on page 3) speaks of “creating an awareness that there are other ways to participate in the political process than by just voting.” Cases involving students in schools are presented for relevance.

Moved: The CP, ACP, and H US Political Systems curriculum guides will be brought to the February 12, 2015 BOE meeting for approval and adoption, under the Consent Agenda.

4. Update on Music curriculum guides

The expansive set of Music curriculum guides will be ready for review at a future Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. It is important that they align to each other and have consistent philosophies. Final edits and adjustments are currently being completed by writers.

5. Future meeting dates: All Fridays @ 8:00AM (some precede an *Elementary Principals Meeting at 9:00AM, so must last less than 1 hour)

1. *January 9, 2015 – CANCELLED (delayed opening)
2. *February 6, 2015
3. *March 6, 2015
4. *May 1, 2015
5. June 12, 2015
6. July 3, 2015
7. August 7, 2015
8. *September 4, 2015
9. October 9, 2015
10. October 30, 2015
11. None? (Budget season)

IF THE MEETING SITE IS CHANGED, IT WILL BE NOTED ON THE AGENDA.

6. Other

The CP English 10 and CP Algebra II & Trigonometry curriculum guides are currently being revised. These revisions include necessary adjustments in order to meet NCAA guidelines. Also coming soon are K-5 English/Language Arts curriculum guides. Art (K-12) revisions are currently in progress.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.