

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee  
of the  
Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Long Hill Administration Building  
Tuesday, August 23, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – Dr. Budd noted that Ms. Petitti was absent due to a death in her family. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Timpanelli at 4:00 p.m.

Members present

L. Timpanelli, acting chair  
M. Ward  
M. Petitti (arrived at 4:11)  
J. Budd, Ph.D., ex officio

Other

L. Cerulli, Madison Middle School team leader for social studies  
P. Gunsolley, Hillcrest Middle School team leader for mathematics  
F. Basbagill, Trumbull High School mathematics department chair  
K. Maurutis, Trumbull High School wellness teacher  
T. Buckingham, English Language Arts Program Leader, K-5  
A. Tartaglia, Trumbull High School business education teacher  
P. Coppola, Madison Middle School assistant principal

2 members of the public

- II. Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 8/11/2016 – Mr. Ward moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- IV. New Business
- a. Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum Guide  
Ms. Cerulli explained that the revision of this curriculum guide aligns the course with the 2015 Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks, as well as with the 2010 Connecticut Core Standards. It focuses grade 6 social studies on the Western

Hemisphere, with the Eastern Hemisphere to be studied in grade 7 beginning in 2017-18 based on curriculum development necessary in Summer 2017. The narrowed grade 6 focus will allow for topics to be pursued in greater depth. Ms. Timpanelli supported the development of interdisciplinary learning, for example in the unit of study involving South America. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- b. New Course Text Proposal: *The Nystrom Desk Atlas* (Core: Grade 6 Social Studies (2016-17) & Grade 7 Social Studies (2017-18))  
Ms. Cerulli linked this text to the revised Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum Guide, noting that piloting of the text had suggested it was a challenging text accessible to students with appropriate support. The text will also be supported by a digital subscription. Mr. Ward inquired about other texts to support students in the course, and Ms. Cerulli mentioned subscriptions to *Junior Scholastic*, newsela, and ReadWorks. Ms. Timpanelli supported the inclusion of current events through nonfiction text. Mr. Ward moved to bring the new text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 23, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- c. Pre-Algebra Curriculum Guide  
Ms. Gunsolley explained that the revisions of this guide supported the recently-approved *Math Accelerated* textbook, including its link to grades 7 & 8 mathematics standards. She noted that content related to the Pythagorean Theorem would be included in a final unit through materials other than the textbook, and explained that the curriculum would support additional students enrolled in grade 6 Pre-Algebra. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- d. Algebra I Curriculum Guide  
Ms. Basbagill explained that the revisions of this guide supported the recently-approved Pearson *Algebra I* textbook; during four summer curriculum work days, a team of teachers worked to accelerate certain units of instruction as well as to include some “no calculator” units to support necessary SAT skills. Ms. Gunsolley affirmed that the curriculum guide was implementable for middle school students in Algebra I as well. Ms. Petitti, observing the importance of quadratics, emphasized the need for all students to be exposed to Algebra I by the end of middle school. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- e. Senior Seminar Curriculum Guide  
Dr. Budd explained the process by which the curriculum for this new course had been developed, including student voice and input from all members of the THS

Wellness Department. Mr. Mauritis, a key developer of the curriculum, walked the Committee through its various units and linked them to the articulated needs of the senior students. Ms. Timpanelli noted the importance of the final capstone project and supporting students in its development. Mr. Ward inquired about financial literacy, and Ms. Tartaglia offered that business educators have valuable insight into that topic. Ms. Petitti supported the relevant topics included in the curriculum, and Ms. Timpanelli encouraged student feedback at the end of the course to continue the course development process. Mr. Mauritis noted his commitment to education of the whole child, and Ms. Timpanelli suggested ways in which TPAUD could offer continued support to Senior Seminar, including through college students coming back to share their experiences with students. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

f. K-5 Writing Draft for Pilot 2016-17 Curriculum Guides

Ms. Buckingham began by noting the incredible enthusiasm and collegiality of the numerous K-5 educators who had worked on these substantial draft curriculum guides in the past two weeks since the Teachers College Writing Institute in Trumbull. She observed that writing workshop in grades K-5 stresses process over product, as well as drafting and revision and partnerships with others as students write. Ms. Timpanelli commended the Teachers College Writing Institute for grades 6-8 teachers in Summer 2017, and Ms. Petitti praised the writing she heard on the final day of the recent K-5 Institute. Dr. Budd asked about handwriting in the TPS instructional program, and Ms. Buckingham explained that Wilson Language is used to teach cursive in grade 3. Mr. Ward moved to bring the draft for pilot curriculum guides to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

g. New Course Text Proposal: *Entrepreneurship: Building a Business* (Core: Entrepreneurship)

Ms. Tartaglia explained that an academic textbook for Entrepreneurship, which offers five sections at Trumbull High School in 2016-17, would raise the rigor of the course, and would be able to be reflected in upcoming curriculum development. This particular text would offer important business education foundation for the course. Ms. Timpanelli supported authentic experiences in the course linked to strong and clear expectations for students. In response to Ms. Petitti, Ms. Tartaglia noted the relevant online support from the publisher as well. Mr. Ward moved to bring the new text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 23, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

h. Report, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments

Dr. Budd thanked the Committee for its ongoing support in a busy month, and noted that the next meeting of the Curriculum Committee would be 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at Trumbull High School

Ms. Petitti moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.; Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.