

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee
of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Long Hill Administration Building
Tuesday, August 3, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Petitti at 3:30 p.m.

Members present

M. Petitti, chair
L. Timpanelli
M. Ward
J. Budd, Ph.D., ex officio

Other

L. Capone, Secretary to the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments
G. Zuk, Madison Middle School academic team leader for mathematics
M. Colon, THS Italian teacher
J. Conti, THS Italian teacher
P. Currie, THS French teacher
K. Boland, THS social studies teacher
E. Balter, Madison Middle School academic team leader for English language arts
L. Ryan, Hillcrest Middle School academic team leader for English language arts
K. Kravecs, THS English teacher
1 member of the public

- II. Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Special Meeting 7/12/2016 – Mr. Ward moved to approve the minutes with the correction that the heading of the Minutes should read “July 12” rather than “June 12.” Ms. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- IV. New Business
- a. New Course Text Proposal: *Math Accelerated: A Pre-Algebra Program* (Core: Pre-Algebra)

Ms. Zuk reviewed the process used to select a proposed new text for Pre-Algebra as well as the strengths of this particular text, including its alignment to the Connecticut Core Standards and its significant online resources. Ms. Petitti noted the importance of students taking pre-algebra in grade 6, and Ms. Zuk affirmed this programmatic direction. Mr. Ward moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

b. Italian IV Curriculum Guide

Ms. Colon and Ms. Conti highlighted elements of Italian IV as captured in this revised curriculum guide, including the Passion Project, an interactive final project completed with the assistance of Ms. Netting, Trumbull High School writing specialist. Ms. Timpanelli noted the importance of this mini-capstone project for seniors in high school. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

c. New Course Text Proposal: *Immagina* (Core: Italian Conversation & Culture III, Italian III ACP, and Italian III Honors)

Dr. Budd explained that the Board had in the 2015-16 school year approved the purchase and use of *Immagina* for Italian IV classes, and the teachers were now eager to use its opening chapters in the Italian III classes. Ms. Colon and Ms. Conti emphasized how *Immagina* has inspired the Italian IV curriculum in very positive directions and that using the text for both Italian III and Italian IV will have significant vertical benefits. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

d. French IV Curriculum Guide

Ms. Currie began by explaining how *Imaginez*, the French parallel to *Immagina*, has inspired the French IV curriculum. She discussed how this summer's development of the revised curriculum guide had encouraged her toward stronger and more diverse assessments. Ms. Timpanelli noted the importance of aligning French IV with AP French standards, and Ms. Currie supported collaboration with Ms. Santelli, teacher of AP French, for example in how French IV includes student research of French-speaking African countries. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

e. Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics Curriculum Guide

Ms. Boland explained that this new course, with two sections scheduled for 2016-17, would support learning similar to the learning of the We the People course at Trumbull High School, and would in fact use the same texts in preparation for the

College Board Advanced Placement exam. Mr. Ward commended Ms. Boland's recent participation in summer professional development, including at the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Ward left the meeting at 3:50.

f. Grade 6 Reading Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd noted that, today, the Committee would review the Grade 6 Reading Curriculum Guide in concert with *Performance Coach* texts; at upcoming meetings, Grades 6, 7, & 8 Language Arts curriculum guides would be reviewed. Ms. Ryan emphasized the substantial collaboration between colleagues at both middle schools this past school year and this current summer, including, in this case, how to best integrate fiction and nonfiction into the curriculum. Additionally, greater student choice (some open choice, some narrowed choice) was sought. Ms. Balter indicated the desire of the teachers for ongoing grade-level collaboration across buildings, and Dr. Budd noted that regular meetings toward this end would continue during 2016-17. Ms. Timpanelli underscored the importance of assured professional development for teachers in best instructional practices. Dr. Budd also noted the inclusion of assured assessments, both formative and summative, in every unit of each new curriculum guide, and the purchase of classroom libraries linked to Teachers College for the grade 6 reading classrooms at each middle school. Ms. Ryan discussed the assured readers' notebook as an important practice now clearly codified in the curriculum guide for all units in all grade 6 reading classrooms. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

g. New Course Text Proposal: *English Language Arts Common Core Performance Coach* Grades 6, 7, & 8 (Core: Grade 6 Reading; Grade 7 Reading; Grade 8 Reading)

Ms. Balter explained that the *Performance Coach* texts included significant authentic text passages and would serve as a way for students to access a standards-based curriculum in an assured manner across classrooms. Ms. Ryan noted the paired passages in the text as well as the structural opportunities for differentiation. Ms. Timpanelli noted the interesting topics of the readings. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

h. New Course Text Proposal: *The Girl on the Train* (Supplemental: A Critical Approach to Popular Literature)

Ms. Kravacs discussed the selection of this text to support the full curriculum guide being developed this summer for A Critical Approach to Popular Literature.

With its unreliable narrator and its new, contemporary publication, the text would balance well other approved texts in the curriculum. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- i. New Course Text Proposal: *Jane Eyre* (Supplemental: English 10 Honors)
Ms. Kravecs explained that the addition of *Jane Eyre* as a supplemental text for English 10 Honors would allow teachers to advance the sophistication of student reading, including with an eye toward the text demands of the redesigned SAT and of Advanced Placement English. She also noted that inclusion of the text would help balance the several curricular texts written by male authors. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- j. New Course Text Proposal: *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* (Supplemental: English 10 and English 10 Honors)
Ms. Kravecs discussed the plot and structure of this proposed new text, which has a bent toward nonfiction and leaves significant thematic questions open for discussion. Resources in the text allow several extension activities of thematic timeliness. Dr. Budd noted that he anticipated two additional copies of the text to arrive tomorrow so that three copies for public review would be available by the time of the posting of the August 9 Board of Education agenda; if the texts had not arrived, he would schedule the text proposal for Board approval on August 23 instead. With that caveat, Ms. Petitti moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for August 9, 2016, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- k. Report, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments
Dr. Budd distributed “Upcoming Trumbull BOE Curriculum Cmte. Meetings” as a reminder chart for the Committee members; a copy is attached to these Minutes, and the meetings have all been publicly noticed. He noted that upcoming meetings would include significant curriculum guides from all levels of the program, K-12, and would include as well a discussion of changes to the middle school schedule and their implications for extension of classroom learning.

Ms. Petitti moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.; Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Upcoming Trumbull BOE Curriculum Cmte. Meetings

Thurs., Aug. 11, 2016	8:00 a.m.	Long Hill Conference Room
Tues., Aug. 23, 2016	5:00 p.m.	Long Hill Conference Room
Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016	8:00 a.m.	THS Main Office Conference Room
Thurs., Sept. 8, 2016	8:00 a.m.	THS Main Office Conference Room
Thurs., Sept. 22, 2016	8:00 a.m.	THS Main Office Conference Room
Thurs., Oct. 20, 2016	8:00 a.m.	THS Main Office Conference Room
Thurs., Nov. 17, 2016	8:00 a.m.	THS Main Office Conference Room