

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee
of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Trumbull High School Main Office Conference Room
Thursday, March 16, 2017 – 8:15 a.m.

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Timpanelli, acting as chair, at 8:20 a.m.

Members present

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

Member absent

M. Petitti, chair

Other

F. Basbagill, Trumbull High School mathematics department chair
E. Balter, Madison Middle School academic team leader for English language arts
B. Yerina, Trumbull High School business education teacher

- II. Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/23/2017 – Mr. Ward moved to approve the minutes with the correction that the adjournment time of the February 23 meeting was “9:07 a.m.” rather than “9:07 p.m.” Ms. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- IV. New Business
- a. New Course Proposal: Math Workshop
Dr. Budd explained the rationale for Math Workshop to support the needs of ninth-grade CP Algebra I students who would benefit from additional mathematics study per week; the course would parallel, in principle, the existing Literacy Workshop course for students who need additional literacy study per week. Ms. Basbagill noted the importance of this year of mathematics to students’ high school mathematics journey. Ms. Timpanelli underscored the need for

students to be adequately prepared via middle school mathematics for high school mathematics coursework. Mr. Ward noted the importance of algebraic concepts for all students prior to high school. Mr. Ward moved to bring the new course proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for March 28, 2017, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- c. New Course Text Proposal: *The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* (Core: Grade 8 Language Arts)

Dr. Budd explained that this new course text would be used in both middle schools as a core text for the unit “Studying the Importance of Family, Faith, and Fear in Our Lives.” Ms. Balter noted several elements of the text that compelled the selection committee to bring it forward: its text complexity, its connections to *Night* (the text students will have read just prior to this text), its thematic connections to the unit’s emphasis, and its interdisciplinary potential as a nonfiction text. She stressed that selection of the text was part of the continued effort to align both middle schools’ language arts programs. Mr. Ward stressed the high interest and learning potential of the text, and Ms. Timpanelli commended the efforts made to increase text rigor at both middle schools. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for March 28, 2017, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- b. Communications Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd noted that this Communications Curriculum Guide was a thorough revision of the current 2004 version. Ms. Yerina explained the course design and its high value to all students in expanding their speech presentation skills. Both Ms. Timpanelli and Mr. Ward commended the value of communications skills for students leaving high school for college and career. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for March 28, 2017, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- d. Report, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments

Dr. Budd reminded the Committee that professional development for teachers in April would include writing workshop development for grades K-5 teachers and writing workshop initiation for grades 6-8 teachers of humanities. July 10-13, 2017, Writing Workshop Summer Institutes would be led by Teachers College in Trumbull for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 teachers.

Mr. Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 a.m.; Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.