

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee  
of the  
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Trumbull High School Main Office Conference Room  
Thursday, June 20, 2019 – 8:15 am

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Petitti at 8:17 am.

Members present

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

Other

B. Beaman, Coordinator of Special Education, Grade 9 – Post High School  
M. Landin, special education teacher, Trumbull High School  
E. August, social studies teacher, Trumbull High School  
P. Berlekovic, Agriscience Department Chair, Trumbull High School  
J. Jasensky, agriscience teacher, Trumbull High School  
J. Chirles, Ed.D., A-House Principal, Trumbull High School  
K. Durand, visual arts teacher, Trumbull High School  
T. Manuel, C-House Principal, Trumbull High School  
V. DiScala, Wellness Team Leader, Trumbull High School  
M. Petroccio, wellness teacher, Trumbull High School  
V. Pfohl, wellness teacher, Trumbull High School  
S. Lavorgna-Lye, World Languages Department Chair, Trumbull High School  
P. Sevilla, Spanish teacher, Trumbull High School  
M. Slais, Spanish teacher, grade 5 & Trumbull High School  
R. Vazzano, Spanish teacher, grade 5 & Trumbull High School

- II. Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.
- III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 5/23/2019  
Mr. Ward moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Ms. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- IV. New Business

- a. New Course Text Proposal: *Kensuke's Kingdom* (Core: English 11-12)  
Dr. Budd noted that this self-contained special education English course was the next step for students successful in the English 9-10 course for which texts had been presented at prior meetings by Ms. Seperack, approved, and used successfully. Mr. Landin would be assuming that role for English 11-12. Mr. Landin spoke about the powerful themes of the text, and the potential cross-curricular connections to social studies. Mr. Ward expressed support for the storyline, and Ms. Petitti for the appropriate reading level of the text. Ms. Timpanelli praised the interdisciplinary connections that can be made. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- b. New Course Text Proposal: *Tort Law: Concepts and Applications* (Core: Honors Justice & Law: Civil Law)  
Dr. Budd noted that the course proposal for one semester of criminal law, and another semester of civil law, for Honors Justice & Law had generated sufficient student enrollment. The criminal law course has an existing text, but the civil law course needs a new text approved. Mr. August explained why the text's approach was particularly suited to the population of the course at THS, and how various supplements, such as attorney guest speakers, will be utilized. Ms. Timpanelli cited examples of the high interest of the text, and Ms. Petitti noted how up-to-date the examples are. Mr. Ward commended the various scenarios in the book, including ones from Connecticut, that can extend to the modern, digital world. Mr. Ward moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- c. Honors Veterinary Science (Year 1 of 2) Curriculum Guide  
Dr. Budd reminded the Committee of their prior support for the new veterinary science track for upper-grade Agriscience students, a two-year course begun this past year by Ms. Jasensky. Ms. Jasensky explained the value of case studies throughout the curriculum, and detailed small animals utilized in the program. Ms. Berlekovic previewed various summer programming at Agriscience, including the development of local herb farming. Ms. Petitti commended the value of college credits for this type of course experience, and Mr. Ward and Ms. Timpanelli supported the expansion of summer programming. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.
- d. Advanced Placement Art History Curriculum Guide  
Dr. Budd explained that AP Art History has also had a successful first year in 2018-19, and has strong enrollment for 2019-20 as well; Ms. Durand has shepherded the curriculum development process. Ms. Durand presented the

various lenses through which art is studied in the course, including links to social studies content. Dr. Chirles praised the “matrix” assessment approach of Ms. Durand, and noted that it had been praised by members of the visiting delegation from China. Ms. Petitti and Ms. Timpanelli supported the range of arts offerings at Trumbull High School, and Mr. Ward commended the recent K-12 Art Exhibit at Sacred Heart University. Ms. Timpanelli moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Ms. Petitti seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

e. Health 9 Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd framed the revision of Health 9 in terms of the strong work done last year in creating and teaching Health 10; now, Health 9 can have a narrower, more effective focus. Ms. Pfohl presented a unit overview of the course, highlighting its efforts to reduce redundancy between this course and other health courses. Mr. Manuel noted that significant efforts had been made to align this course as well with Health 6-8 at the middle schools. Ms. Petitti praised the timely nature of the topics included, and Ms. Timpanelli and Mr. Ward supported the importance of well-rounded health education for all students. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

f. Basic Weight Training Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd explained that, since the schedule for 2019-20 supports student enrollment in the Basic Weight Training elective, a curriculum guide has been developed. Mr. Petroccio linked the course to the importance of positive self-esteem, pride, accomplishment, confidence, and self-image for high school students. Mr. DiScala noted how valuable a SMARTBoard in the Weight Room will be for the course, and Dr. Budd noted that he would communicate that to the District Technology Department. Mr. Ward, Ms. Timpanelli, and Ms. Petitti inquired about adequate resources and space in the weight room, and Mr. Petroccio and Mr. DiScala shared future possibilities. Mr. Ward moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

g. Spanish Conversation & Culture IV Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd commended Mr. Sevilla’s strong work in developing the Conversation & Culture pathway into the fourth year for students enrolled in Spanish. Sr. Sevilla explained how scaffolding in the course is particularly effective for student achievement, and Ms. Lavorgna-Lye commended Sr. Sevilla’s outstanding teaching in that regard. Ms. Timpanelli supported the rich topics of the course, and the inclusion of authentic Spanish experiences. Ms. Petitti and Mr. Ward praised the range of world languages offerings for all students. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

h. Grade 5 Spanish Curriculum Guide

Dr. Budd commended the strong addition to the instructional program of Grade 5 Spanish for 2018-19; it has received accolades from teachers, parents, and students alike, and its strong development has been in large part due to the energy, enthusiasm, and expertise of Sra. Slais and Sr. Vazzano. Sra. Slais noted that the curriculum is based on the ACTFL Standards for World Languages, and Sr. Vazzano explained the importance of the oral/aural approach. Both shared examples of activities and student work from the program. Ms. Timpanelli lauded that all grade 5 students have experienced this Spanish program, and Mr. Ward and Ms. Petitti voiced their support for continued program development in the future based on the excitement and enthusiasm of this year. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the curriculum guide to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for July 9, 2019, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

i. Report, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments

Dr. Budd reviewed key summer curriculum projects with the Committee. He also reminded them of the upcoming Summer Reading Institute enrolling 60 Trumbull K-5 teachers, and to be held at Daniels Farm Elementary School from July 8-11, 2019.

Ms. Petitti moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 am; Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.