

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, November 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair) and Dr. Anne Harrigan

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal - Cheshire High School (CHS); Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Julie Barker - CHS Science Department Chair; Susan Chasen - CHS Science Teacher; Tim Galvin - CHS Social Studies Department Chair

Community Members Present:

None

1. Public Comment

No public comment in-person or via email.

2. [Review Minutes of October 16, 2023 Meeting](#)

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023. The motion passed.

3. New Business

a. [CHS Program of Studies Changes](#)

Dr. Maureen Reed provided an overview of the recommended new courses, course changes, and level changes to the 2024-25 Cheshire High School (CHS) Program of Studies. The updates include the addition of the AP World History. Tim Galvin added that AP World History would be open for students in grades 11 and 12. The prerequisites include passing US History (grade 10) and teacher recommendation. This should allow access for a broad number of students to study a core history offering more in depth. Course changes include changing the course titles of the music ensembles from VIP's and Vocal Jazz Ensemble to Select Mixed Choir and Select Treble Choir respectively. Additional course changes include changing Jazz band from a semester to a full-year course, changing Marketing II from a full year to a semester course, and offering Microsoft II to grade 9 students in addition to the current offering for students in grades 10-12. The final course change is to remove the Mastery-Based Performance Assessment as a required class beginning the 2024-25 school year per updates in

CT legislation. Courses with level changes include adding the honors level to Drawing 2, Painting 2, Advanced Ceramics, and Advanced Drawing and Painting.

b. New Textbook Recommendation

- [World of Chemistry, by Steven S. Zumdahl, Susan L. Zumdahl, Donald J. DeCoste](#)

Julie Barker and Susan Chasen presented the textbook recommendation for use with the Chemistry and Honors Chemistry course. [World of Chemistry](#) by Steven S. Zumdahl, Susan L. Zumdahl, and Donald J. DeCoste (2021) would replace the current outdated Chemistry text. The text was one of three vetted using a district rubric that included the categories of standards, assessment, instruction, learning tasks, and materials. The request includes hardcopy textbooks for each classroom as well as 6 years of online access for every enrolled student. Susan Chasen noted that the NGSS guidebook for teachers is a useful and important resource that identifies which performance expectations, science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross cutting concepts are associated with each unit. The readability of the text, online (OWL) problems for students, and a test bank for teachers are among the supplementary materials included with the purchase of the textbook were additional positive aspects of the recommended text.

Ms. Ham moved that the World of Chemistry by Steven S. Zumdahl, Susan L. Zumdahl, and Donald J. DeCoste (2021) be forwarded to the full board for approval after the appropriate two-week period where it is available to the public for review. Dr. Harrigan seconded the motion. Dr. Harrigan and Ms. Ham voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

4. Informational Items

a. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trips

- [Cheshire High School - Belfast, ME - November 10-12, 2023 \(Cross Country\)](#)
- [Dodd Middle School - Washington, DC - May 22-24, 2024](#)

Dr. Maureen Reed shared the details of the cross country team trip to Maine this past weekend. The team traveled based on qualifying for the All New England Championship Race.

Marlene Silano shared details for the annual grade 8 trip to Washington DC. The trip includes tours of the Nation's Capital and surrounding historical sites. The dates of the trip are May 22-24, 2024.

5. Adjourn

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Dr. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator