



Minutes
Curriculum & Professional Practices
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Via Zoom
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Jackie Blea, Committee Chair; Lynn Katz, Thej Singh, Liz Sommerkorn

Member(s) Absent: none

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget H. Carnemolla, Superintendent; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Jodi Kryzanski, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Susan Russo, Business Manager

Others Present: Deb Chute, Board Chair; Betsy Sanborn, AHS Social Studies Department Coordinator; Lisa Cleveland, AMS Social Studies Teacher/Ruby Team Leader; Alison Morris, TBS Curriculum Specialist; Christine Sardinkas, Board Recording Secretary

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Blea, at 6:00 pm.

II. New Business

- Course Change Proposal Recommendation -

Mr. Giannini stated that the proposal was to condense units 3 & 4 as there was heavy overlap in content. With condensing the units, they would introduce Central and Latin America content.

Lynn Katz motioned to have the Course Change Proposal moved to the full board for approval, Ms. Thej Singh seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-0

- Grades 7-12 Social Studies Curriculum (Stage 1)

Mr. Giannini started by thanking everyone for coming to review and consider Stage 1 of the Social Studies, Grade 7-12 revisions. Stage 1 is considered what is taught and when, and the primary goals of this stage is to make sure the curriculum is aligned (for example, no overlap with other courses or years) and it is rigorous and relevant. It was confirmed by Mr. Giannini that texts and materials were also reviewed in the process of reviewing curriculum.

Mr. Giannini then discussed the standards which are based on National and State standards, making sure students are learning what is required and expected of them to learn. Mr. Giannini confirmed through a question that all Avon curriculum is designed and written in the same way, to remain consistent with all subjects.

Ms. Kryzanski was then introduced to discuss the pages in the packet that were summaries of the changes to the Social Studies curriculum.

Ms. Kryzanski then asked Ms. Sanborn and Ms. Cleveland to take over and discuss the changes to the curriculum

Ms. Sanborn began by saying the last revisions were done in 2016, and the recent legislation guided the revisions. There was a lot of conversation on content and the Vertical Team is looking to include more global and contemporary history into the curriculum. Overall, the revisions were based on 1) CT framework for Social Studies 2)Common Core for History and Social Studies and also 3)C3 Framework (College, Career and Civic Life Framework).

Ms. Lisa Cleveland went on to discuss the framework for the curriculum, and the review/revision process. Also confirming stage 1, 2 and 3 stayed in alignment throughout the process.

Terminology was made more consistent across the curriculum/courses. The team continues to stay aligned with where they test on content, critical thinking, and student reflection, etc. and being tested the same regardless of teacher. Also part of the revision was to provide opportunities to demonstrate what they learned through different avenues other than just testing (debates, projects etc.). Finally, ensuring students are building on skills learned in Elementary school through high school.

Summary of Revisions:

7th Grade: Pilot a unit on West African Kingdoms

8th Grade: Not much change in content

9th & 10th Grade: Revising I-Search to support Capstone expectations

11th Grade: Pilot of ‘Clash of Cultures on the Great Plains’ Unit

Electives: Addition of African American/Latin American Studies Course

Additional Vertical Team Recommendations:

possible revision of common rubrics, continued conversations on summative and formative assessments, work with Special Ed teachers to include differentiated instruction, create a vertical curriculum map.

Dr. Carnemolla then showed the Board one of the links from the summative revision pages to show what a curriculum page looks like. She also thanked the Social Studies Vertical Team for all the hard work on this project, as it is a huge undertaking and appreciated the way they brought the information to the Board as they did.

A Board member posed the question about having the curriculum ‘hearing’ the voices and perspectives of the minorities and those traditionally marginalized? Ms. Cleveland responded that stage 1 process is to just identify the standards that we need to be aligned to according to the state and national level, stage 2 and stage 3 is about ensuring the incorporation of primary sources of the voices of various perspectives. Resources and materials expose the students to the multiple voices of the era.

C&PP Committee Chair, Ms. Blea, thanked them all for the work over the years to get to this place, and the parents will be pleased to see what they see online with this curriculum. Grateful for what the curriculum represents.

Ms. Blea inquired about assessments being consistent between teachers and it was confirmed that they were consistent, and the revision process lends itself to ensuring that each teacher assesses and looks for the same outcome from the students.

Finally, Ms. Blea praised them for curating for other voices and lenses of History.

Ms. Thej Singh motioned to have the Social Studies Curriculum revisions moved to the full board, Ms. Lynn Katz seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-0

III. Old Business

IV. Comments from the Public No comments from the Public

V. Adjournment

Lynn Katz motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:03 p.m., motion passed 4-0-0

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie Blea, C&PP Committee Chair

4/21/23

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Minutes are approved at the next Finance Committee meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.