



## **Minutes**

### **Curriculum & Professional Practices Avon Board of Education 34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001 Tuesday, February 13, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Attendance**

**Members Present:** Lynn Katz, Committee Chair; Ramesh Kandipilli; Thej Singh, Sarah Thompson  
**Member(s) Absent:** None

**Administration Present:** Dr. Bridget H. Carnemolla, Superintendent; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Roberto Medic, Assistant Superintendent; Jodi Kryzanski, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

**Others Present:** Deb Chute, Board Chair;

- I. Call to order  
*The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lynn Katz, at 6:00 pm.*
  
- II. Approval of October 24, 2023 minutes-  
*Ms. Thej Singh moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023, Ms. Sarah Thompson seconded*  
*Motion passed 4-0-0*
  
- III. Comments from the Public No comments from the Public
  
- IV. Old Business- N/A
  
- IV. New Business-
  - A. Primary Instructional Material Recommendations  
Dr. Carnemolla stated that Primary Instructional Materials are for courses that are required, not electives.  
Mr. Giannini continued; the CPDC committee met on February 1st and 2 Primary Material recommendations came out of that meeting; Rebecca, the novel and an 8th grade Social Studies Textbook.  
  
To start with the novel, Rebecca, it is used for 12th graders taking the ECE True Crime Then and Now elective English Course. ECE stands for Early College Experience and is based out of UCONN where a student can see what a college curriculum and assessment look like as well as possibly earning credits towards their college coursework.  
Ms. Katz questioned if the college chose the book or if we chose the book and Mr. Giannini answered that we chose the book to coincide with the course. Dr. Carnemolla added that there are some required materials the college mandates to be used for their courses, but there is some latitude with some instructional materials.  
Ms. Thompson asked if this was a pilot program or if it will be used from here on out and Dr. Carnemolla said it is approved to be used from here on out, but it doesn't mean they may not pick another one that fits well with the course in a few years.  
Mr. Kandipilli asked what the process was on how they chose the books for the courses and Dr. Carnemolla answered that the process begins with the teachers and the CPDC team

bringing together books to choose from that align with the curriculum and meet the standards for the course. Discussions are held and then there is a vote on the books to bring forward to the CPP Committee, and then onto the full Board. Dr. Carnemolla stated that textbooks work the same way, use the same process.

***Ms. Thej Singh motioned to have the new material/book Rebecca moved to the full board for approval , as well as open the 30 day review of the material, Mr. Kandipilli seconded.  
Motion passed 4-0-0***

The second Primary Instructional Material up tonight is the 8th grade Social Studies textbook, American History: Beginnings to 1877 (My World Interactive). Mr. Giannini began by saying that last year the 7-12 Social Studies curriculum was revised and the committee realized a great new option was available for 8th grade social studies textbooks and decided after discussion and a vote that this textbook was the best option to move forward. This textbook is an updated version of the one the students have now, but is more interactive, more multimedia experiences and a larger library for online platforms.

Ms. Katz questioned the copyright date and Mr. Giannini and Ms. Jodi Kryzanski had confirmed this was the latest edition available.

***Ms. Thej Singh motioned to have the new textbook American History: Beginnings to 1877 moved to the full board for approval , as well as open the 30 day review of the material, Mr. Kandipilli seconded.  
Motion passed 4-0-0***

V. Professional Development Overview- This is just an FYI for the Board  
Mr. Giannini began by saying Avon has one more full day of Professional Development in March and then one more half day in May. It is an important part of the work we do, and thus have moved from the term 'Professional Development' to '*Professional Learning*' which leads to more self directed learning, collaboration and reflection for all staff.

Mr. Giannini continued with how Professional Learning supports the goals and focus areas that are in line with the Blueprint for Excellence, as well as to improve student learning and grow the professional capacity of Avon's staff. It also ensures we can retain and grow the district's highly skilled workforce. Professional Learning is offered at different levels (district level, school, department, by certification and by specialty area etc.). It is the goal to encompass differentiated types of learning, i.e. small group, individualized, workshops, lab based experiences to name a few.

Mr. Giannini then went on to show the Board how all the Professional Learning that is done is connected to the 4 components of our Blueprint for Excellence. Some questions that arose during this discussion were if some of the Professional Learning was required, and Dr. Carnemolla answered that yes, some of the sessions are required (Title IX, Cultural Competency, Sexual Harassment etc.) and they are offered to make sure we are all in compliance. Mr. Ramesh Kandipilli inquired about the minimum hours a certified staff needs to have in Professional Development and Mr. Giannini replied that certified teachers are required to have 18 hours of PD a year, and here at Avon we offer many more hours/opportunities to exceed that 18 hour mark.

Mr. Giannini wanted to thank the people that make Professional Learning possible, as the vast majority is organized, planned and facilitated by our talented staff, in particular Jodi Kryzanski, Elizabeth Ferry and Tiffany Fox as well as our Curriculum Specialists. Many hours go into the planning of these sessions for all staff.

VI. Adjournment

***Ms. Thej Singh motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:46 p.m., Mr. Ramesh Kandipilli seconded motion passed 4-0-0***

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Katz, C&PP Committee Chair

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

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