



Curriculum & Professional Practices

Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury Road, Avon, Connecticut

Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire in each student a joy and passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and social responsibility.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6:00 pm

Virtual

The Board will conduct this meeting remotely. Please email Christine Sardinkas csardinkas@avon.k12.ct.us, not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting if you require any electronic equipment necessary to attend such meeting in real-time. In such cases, the Board will provide a physical location and the necessary electronic equipment. Please be advised that the same opportunities to provide comment or testimony and otherwise participate in such meetings if such meetings were held in person will continue to apply.

To join Zoom Meeting, click on link below:

<https://avonk12ctus.zoom.us/j/83460171054?pwd=SS9iY1hteVkvTmZESctUViV5ZktPUT09>

To dial in, call:

1 (646) 558-8656 or 1 (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 834 6017 1054 Passcode: 204633

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of October 24, 2023 Minutes
- III. Communication from the Public
Communications are generally limited to 15 minutes as a total maximum for all speakers, with each speaker limited to 3 minutes in accordance with standing Board policy.
- IV. Primary Instructional Material Recommendation
- V. Textbook Recommendation
- VI. Overview of Professional Development for 2023-2024 School Year
- VII. Adjournment

Committee Members

Lynn Katz
Thej Singh
Sarah Thompson
Ramesh Kandipilli



Minutes

**Curriculum & Professional Practices
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

Attendance

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

Member(s) Absent: None

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget H. Carnemolla, Superintendent; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Deb Chute, Board Chair; (teachers)

- I. Call to order
The meeting was called to order by Ms. Jackie Blea, at 6:00 pm.
- II. Approval of May 30, 2023 minutes-
*Ms. Lynn Katz moved to approve the minutes of May 30, 2023, Ms. Thej Singh seconded
Motion passed 3-0-0*
- III. Comments from the Public No comments from the Public
- IV. Old Business- N/A
- IV. New Business-
 - A. Primary Instructional Material Recommendations
Mr. Giannini began by reviewing the way the curriculum is designed and the 3 stages of curriculum development. Mr. Giannini continued to speak of the focus of the CPDC committee is to continue to revise older curriculum and use the newly created CLT (Collaborative Learning Time) to work together as a team.

Ms. Katz made a comment that it was refreshing to see the curriculum committee digging deeper into what we had and revising instead of piling on new items.

A short conversation about CLT's ensued, and then Mr. Giannini presented the Primary Instructional Material that was being introduced to the Board.

The Patron Saint of Nothing, by Randy Ribay is the book the CPDC is asking to put forward to the full board for approval. It is an 8th grade novel for the ELA classes. Mr. Giannini gave a brief synopsis of the book, and noted that it was unanimously voted in by the CPDC. Tonight would begin the 30 day review of the new book, although 30 days will not be up by the November monthly board meeting, the hope is that it would pass the Curriculum committee tonight and go to the full board as an FYI, to be approved at the December monthly meeting.
*Ms. Thej Singh motioned to have the new material/book The Patron Saint of Nothing, moved to the full board for approval, Ms. Lynn Katz seconded.
Motion passed 3-0-0*

Ms. Katz questions Mr. Giannini about the Science of Reading waiver, and Mr. Giannini answered that there is a one to one meeting with the state and a consulting firm the state has hired to go over the waivers and that is next week.

Before the meeting adjourned, Ms. Blea mentioned that it was a pleasure to be the Chair of the Curriculum Committee (as this is her last meeting before she retires from the Avon Board of Education in December) and that she had learned so much being on the committee. It has been amazing and she is so grateful for the generosity that has been shown to her.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Thej Singh motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:17 p.m., Ms. Lynn Katz seconded motion passed 3-0-0

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie Blea, 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.

Avon Public Schools
Proposal for Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Proposed by: G. Macy, J. Post, E. Sanborn
Grade Level(s): 8

Department: Social Studies
Date: January 29, 2024

Check one: ☒ New textbook/Instructional materials ☐ Change in textbook/Instructional materials

- 1. Title:** American History; Beginnings to 1877 (My World Interactive)
- 2. Author(s):** James West Davidson, Michael B. Stoff, Jennifer L. Bertolet
- 3. Publication Date:** 2019 **Publisher:** Savvas Learning Company

4. Correlation to District Blueprint for Excellence:

This new textbook improves on the existing text by being supported with a totally revised and enhanced online learning experience and resources that increase more challenging student learning pathways. The new text and online resources will provide a variety of tools to provide feedback to students (activities, assessments) and include a suite of tools for teachers to assess student learning and data.

5. Correlation to approved district curriculum:

Both the current and new proposed textbooks follow the same structure based on approved district curriculum, thus providing access to the appropriate historical content identified in Avon's grade 8 American History curriculum.

6. List of other textbooks or instructional materials considered:

America: History of Our Nation (Prentice Hall) (current textbook)

7. Short description or synopsis of textbook or instructional materials:

Survey textbook of American History - Beginnings to 1877. It is a significant revision of our current textbook to be more aligned with the web-based platform developed by Savvas that supports it. For example, multimedia learning opportunities for the students to engage with are embedded to extended learning and enrichment. Structurally, the text shifts from Chapters and Sections to Topics and Lessons. However, it follows the same chronological structure of the older edition, from the Early Americas to the Reconstruction Era.

8. List of other CT school districts using recommended textbooks or instructional materials:

Southington Public Schools - JFK MS and Depaolo MS (Depaolo - Robert Lasbury, Assistant Principal - rlasbury@southingtonschools.org and JFK - Marc DiDominzio, mdidominzio@southingtonschools.org, **Newington Public Schools** - Wallace MS (Marco Tirillo, Assistant Principal - mtirillo@npsct.org), **East Windsor Public Schools** - East Windsor MS (Darryl Rouillard, Assistant Superintendent- drouillard@ewct.org

9. Confirmation that the recommended textbooks have online/internet support or other such supports:

This text was revised and redesigned to be supported by the new SAVVAS online textbook and resources. Below is the link sent to us by Jason Macfarland, the SAVVAS sales representative for CT.

www.savvasrealize.com

username: avonpublicschools

password: Savvas2024

Curriculum Professional

Development Council Recommendation: _____ **Date:** _____

Board of Education Notification: _____ **Date:** _____

30 Day Review Period: From: _____ **To:** _____

Board of Education Approval:

Date:

Avon Public Schools

Proposal for Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Proposed by: Jenna Aylsworth

Department: ELA

Grade Level(s): 12

Date: 2/1/23

Check one: ☒ New textbook/Instructional materials ☐ Change in textbook/Instructional materials

1. Title: *Rebecca*

2. Author(s): Daphne Du Maurier

3. Publication Date: reprint 2006

Publisher: Harper

4. **Correlation to District Blueprint for Excellence:** Focus Area 1: Student Learning. We will create multiple student learning pathways to challenge students to think critically and creatively, persist in solving challenging problems, work collaboratively, and communicate effectively.

5. **Correlation to approved district curriculum:** This novel is for the ECE True Crime Then & Now course. It will be a part of the second unit of study, when students will move from nonfiction readings to a study of how societal concerns around crime/criminals manifest in the fiction of the time periods under consideration (early 20th century to contemporary works). Existing nonfiction will be excerpted to make space for this introduction to fictional narratives. As an important early example of the Gothic/mystery genre, *Rebecca* will serve as a seminal work and foundation for the students' later, self-selected readings of fictional thrillers. The Gothic precursors to modern mysteries directly influence modern writers; the students will benefit from discussions that juxtapose the earlier form with the modern. This additional fictional work will enable deeper, richer application of the course tropes and use of the critical lenses as students transition from nonfiction to fictional narratives.

6. **List of other textbooks or instructional materials considered:** The book selected to support the ELA units was selected based on extensive book searches (school and local libraries, teacher resource websites) and teacher recommendation. The book has been read and in some cases used in the past.

7. **Short description or synopsis of textbook or instructional materials:** From Amazon.com: "This novel ushers the reader into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten—a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers: a suite immaculate and untouched, clothing laid out and ready to be worn, but not by any of the great house's current occupants. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife—the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca."

8. **List of other CT school districts using recommended textbooks or instructional materials:** As these are non-traditional textbooks, the process of identifying these materials included a review of the current resources recommended and used by colleagues, the CSDE, renowned educational leaders, and publishers of educational materials.

9. **Confirmation that the recommended textbooks have online/internet support or other such supports:** n/a

Curriculum Professional

Development Council Recommendation: _____

Date: _____

Board of Education Notification: _____

Date: _____

30 Day Review Period: From: _____ To: _____

Board of Education Approval: _____

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Date: _____