



Student Achievement Committee

April 20, 2022

MINUTES - DRAFT

Present: Ken Bagley, Emily Bailey, Ryan Broderick, Catherine Carbone, Eric Carlson, Michael Dietter, Jennifer Dube, Carly Fortin, Jade Gope, Sara Hale, Mike Higgins, Theresa Motel, Shelby Pons, Jaime Rechenberg, Azra Redzic, Jason Reichler, Kristy Ricciardone, Jillian Romann, Samantha Sarli, Geoff Sinatro, Todd Sturgeon, Dante Tagariello, Melanie Vetrano, Karen Vibert, Leszek Ward, Christopher Wilson, Pete Winger

Call to Order:

Commissioner Sturgeon called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Public Comment:

Mr. Thomas and Ms. Deborah Berill, 498 East Road, Bristol, CT 06010 addressed the committee members in regards to the Black and Latino Studies elective curriculum.

Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2022

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, it was unanimously;

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of February 16, 2022.

Information: School Counseling Curriculum & Resources and Crew Resources

Carly Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning presented information regarding the curriculum for crew and advisory, and SEL curriculum that is being used in the district. At the national level, one framework that is used to guide SEL is the CASEL framework. CASEL is one of the frameworks that helped to shape CT Framework for K-3 Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits and the CT School Counseling K-12 Framework. It is important to note that the K-3 guidance stresses that these are learning opportunities that should be embedded throughout the school day and should be implemented by students' elementary teachers. Since there is no specific certification required to implement the guidance in the K-3 framework, Bristol did not develop an SEL curriculum for the K-5 level. Certification is required to implement the CT School Counseling Framework, and as such, Bristol developed a curriculum that was approved by the Board of Education in July 2021. *Questions and discussion followed.*

Decision: K-2 Mathematics Revision:

Jillian Romann, Elementary STEM Supervisor presented the revision of the K-2 Mathematics curriculum. This revision is a transition of the K-2 curriculum using Illustrative Mathematics as a resource. With these instructional shifts, Bristol Public Schools has consistent programming starting in Kindergarten through Geometry at the High School level.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Tagariello, it was unanimously;

VOTED: To approve the K-2 Mathematics Revision.

Information: Mastery Credit Experience:

Mrs. Fortin presented the topic of the Mastery Credit Experience. The Mastery Credit Experience is a requirement for all students in the graduating class of 2023 and beyond. This is part of State legislation that all students must earn one credit as a Mastery Experience. Mastery-based learning has been developed to ensure that students are prepared for college, career, and civic life through multiple and flexible pathways. The Mastery Credit Experience consists of fourth pathways for students to explore their own independent interests and connect to their academics.

Information: Curriculum Preview, Black and Latino Studies Elective:

Leszek Ward, Secondary Humanities Supervisor presented a new curriculum, Black and Latino Studies Elective. The CT Public Act 19-12 was passed in 2019, which established state statutes for this course as a requirement to be offered CT Public Schools. Bristol Public Schools will be implementing this course next year as an elective at the High School level.

Questions and discussion followed.



Information: Curriculum Preview, Modern Band for Middle School:

Dr. Samantha Sarli, Principal of BAIMS presented the new curriculum, Modern Band for Middle School. This course is specifically for BAIMS middle school. Modern Band is designed as the exploratory class for students who do not choose band as their concentration. Students do not need to have any prior instrument experience, as the curriculum is geared towards learning how to play modern instruments. Each course will culminate in a final project.

Questions and discussion followed.

Information: Curriculum Preview, Modern Band for High School:

Dr. Sarli presented the new curriculum, Modern Band for High School. This course is specifically for BAIMS. Along the same principles of Modern Band for Middle School, high school students do not have to have any previous experience playing an instrument to take this course. The course will culminate in a final project.

Information: Curriculum Preview, Ukulele, Song-writing, and Digital Music (6-8):

Dr. Sarli presented the new curriculum, Ukulele, Song-writing, and Digital Music (6-8). This course is specifically for BAIMS. The course is for those students who do not choose chorus/vocal ensemble as their concentration. The final unit culminates the previous units where students will work directly within a notation or songwriting software to create their own piece.

Decision: Curriculum Revision, First Reading, Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (6-8):

Dr. Sarli presented the revised curriculum, Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (6-8). The shift of this curriculum is focused on skills which are applicable to any type of choral ensemble. The same curriculum will be used at BAIMS because the focus is on skill rather than ensemble specific technique.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tagariello and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, it was unanimously;

VOTED: To approve the Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (6-8) Revision.

Decision: Curriculum Revision, First Reading, Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (9-12):

Dr. Sarli presented the revised curriculum, Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (9-12). The revision was necessary and allowed for the shift of the curriculum to focus on vocal skills rather than ensemble techniques. Because of this shift, this curriculum will also be used for BAIMS as the vocal ensemble curriculum. The difference between BAIMS and our comprehensive high schools, is that students at Bristol Central High School and Bristol Eastern High School that sign up for chorus will take it for the full year; whereas, students at BAIMS can take this course for one semester.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tagariello and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, it was unanimously;

VOTED: To approve the Chorus/Vocal Ensemble (9-12) Revision.

Information: Chemistry Performance:

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Secondary STEM Supervisor shared information on chemistry performance. The graduation requirement for chemistry changed for the class of 2020. The decision to make chemistry a graduation requirement was anchored in the number of NGSS standards required prior to the NGSS assessment by the State in grade 11. The performance changes in recent years have been likely impacted by the increase in student enrollment and pandemic related factors. Based on the chemistry enrollment data, since the shift to chemistry for all, the enrollment in a third year of science has doubled. Based upon the review of student achievement, plans are in place to further professional learning and support around inclusive pedagogical practices through continued collaboration among our professional staff.

Questions and discussion followed.

Decision: Curriculum Revision, First Reading, Digital Media Production:

Dr. Rechenberg presented the curriculum revision of Digital Media Production. This course was called Video Production in the past. The first level course focuses on using professional video and photo cameras, and the software used to edit.



On a motion made by Commissioner Tagariello and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, it was unanimously;
VOTED: To approve the Digital Media Production Revision.

Decision: Curriculum Revision, First Reading, Advanced Digital Media Production:

Dr. Rechenberd presented the curriculum revision of Advanced Digital Media Production. This course has a prerequisite of Digital Media Production. This course stresses the importance of teamwork through a variety of projection projects.

On a motion made by Commissioner Tagariello and seconded by Commissioner Sturgeon, it was unanimously;
VOTED: To approve the Advanced Digital Media Production Revision.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sturgeon adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabby Nicoletti

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