



**Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee  
April 30, 2025  
MINUTES**

*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [April 30, 2025 SAC Meeting Recording](#)*

PRESENT Committee members: Jill Fitzsimons-Bula & Kristen Giantonio  
ABSENT: Maria Simmons

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Bagley, Carly Fortin, Sara Hale (Zoom), Mary Hawk, Laura Lanza, Chair Shelby Pons (Zoom), Azra Redzic, Melanie Vetrano (Zoom), Leszek Ward

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Decision: Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2025 meeting**

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes.**

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Information: School Calendar Discussion**

Chief Academic Officer, Carly Fortin brought forward the information on school calendars from previous Student Achievement Committee dates. Discussion followed regarding the current “no-school” days within the calendar. There was also discussion that the calendar should be brought to Student Achievement Committee meetings before the full Board of Education meetings.

**Decision: PLTW Principles of Engineering**

Mrs. Laura Lanza, Supervisor of Secondary STEM, presented Principles of Engineering, a second-level PLTW course for high schoolers, which explores diverse engineering fields and careers through real-world problem-solving. Students develop technical skills using various engineering tools and apply the design process to areas like mechanical, robotics, and environmental engineering. The course uses activity-, project-, problem-based learning to cultivate essential skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, and ethical reasoning, alongside engineering protocols like design and testing.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the PLTW Principles of Engineering curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: PLTW Introduction to Engineering and Design**

Mrs. Lanza presented Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), a PLTW course, which introduces high school students to engineering tools and a problem-solving design process. Through activity-, project-, problem-based learning, students advance from structured tasks to open-ended challenges, developing planning, documentation, communication, and professional skills. Individually and collaboratively, they apply systems thinking to consider factors like material selection and sustainability, develop technical representation skills using CAD software, and create 3D-printed prototypes. Students use testing protocols and computational methods to inform iterative design improvements and build competency in project management, peer review, and environmental impact analysis.

Questions followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the PLTW Introduction to Engineering and Design curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: ECE Chemistry**

Mrs. Lanza presented the curriculum for ECE Chemistry. This curriculum was written to formalize the difference between AP Chemistry and ECE Chemistry. This course allows students to earn 8 college credits through the University of Connecticut.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the ECE Chemistry curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Cooperative Work Experience 50/100**

Mrs. Lanza presented the curriculum revision for CWE 50/100. In this course, students gain real-world experience through a 50- or 100-hour internship in a career field of interest. Students will apply academic knowledge and develop essential workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving. Through hands-on learning, students will gain a better understanding of professional expectations, workplace safety, and ethical responsibilities. They will engage in meaningful reflection to identify their strengths, areas for growth, and future career goals. Students will also create and maintain a career portfolio to support their career readiness. This course helps students connect classroom learning to real-world applications, build confidence, and prepare for life beyond high school.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the CWE 50/100 curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Tools and Materials**

Mrs. Lanza presented the curriculum revision for Tools and Materials. This laboratory-based exploratory course introduces students to a variety of materials and to the tools and machines used to process them. Materials utilized may include woods, metals, and plastics. A variety of manufacturing processes will be surveyed, including separating, forming, combining, joining, conditioning, and finishing. The hands-on instructional aspects of this course focus on proper operating procedures and safe operation of tools and machines.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Tools and Materials curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Kindergarten Literacy**

Mrs. Azra Redzic, Supervisor of Elementary Humanities, presented that the reason for this revision is to align with Connecticut's approved K-3 reading curriculum models or programs, increase ease of use of Wit & Wisdom for classroom teachers and update resources/ books. The new curriculum includes 4 Modules: 1. The Five Senses, 2. Once Upon a Farm, 3. America, Then and Now, and 4. The Continents.

Questions and discussion followed.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Kindergarten Literacy curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

**Decision: Kindergarten Music**

Mr. Kenneth Bagley, Supervisor of Fine Arts, presented the curriculum revision for Kindergarten music. This course was last revised in 2014 and now includes the following 7 units: 1. Rhythm, 2. Melody, 3. Expression, 4. Form, 5. Timbre, 6. Literacy, and 7. Technique.

*On a motion made by Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula and seconded by Commissioner Giantonio, it was unanimously;*

**VOTED: to move the Kindergarten Music curriculum revision to the full Board of Education for approval.**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Fitzsimons-Bula adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

***Katlyne Laprise***

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