

Middletown Board of Education
Curriculum Committee

January 12, 2026

5.30P Via Zoom

Board of Education (BOE) Committee Members Present Kelly Bee, Committee Chair Rakim Grant, Committee Member Kim Riordan, Committee Member	Also Present Colleen Fitzpatrick, Interim Chief Academic Officer Deb Petruzello, Community Member Liz Crooks, Community Member Dan Rouchy, Supervisor, Grades 6-12 English Language Arts Kate Wicander, Teacher, Middletown High School Rich Cordaway, Director, PreK-12 Mathematics and Intervention Yvonne Daniels, Supervisor, Grades 6-12 Mathematics Dr. Alan Addley, Interim Superintendent Sheila Daniels, Chair, Board of Education Dean Krupa, Board of Education
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Call to order and introductions: Committee Chair Kelly Bee called the meeting to order at 5:35P and introductions were made. Colleen leading the first meeting of 2026 to assist Kelly in getting familiar with proceedings.

This meeting of the Middletown Curriculum Committee, chaired by Kelly B. and facilitated by Colleen Fitzpatrick, covered major updates to the Math Department, a proposal for a new English elective, and a status update on the JROTC program.

1. Math Department Presentation & Discussion

Presenters: Rich Cordaway (Director of Math) and Yvonne Daniels (Math Supervisor)

Key Updates

- **Curriculum Alignment:** Grades 7 through Algebra 2 have been aligned with SAT standards and university mapping to increase rigor.
- **New Offerings: * Data Science:** Currently running in its first year.
 - **ECE UConn Discrete Math:** Approved for the upcoming year.
 - **UConn ECE Calculus 1 & 2:** Pending approval for the 2027-28 school year.
- **Pre-Calculus Growth:** Enrollment in Pre-Calculus increased by **26%** this year (132 students compared to 105 last year), with more sophomores and juniors taking the course.
- **Algebra 1 in 8th Grade:** 51 students are currently enrolled. While lower than historical peaks, the department emphasizes that these students are better prepared to stay on the advanced track through high school.

Board Concerns & Responses

- **Declining Scores:** Board member Liz Crooks raised concerns regarding the drop in math proficiency (from 28.8% in 2018-19 to 15.4% last year).
 - **Response:** Rich Cordaway noted that they are seeing a "slow gain" and that recent restructuring aims to close gaps left by previous curricula.
- **Support for Struggling Students:** Community members asked what is being done for students not on the "college track."
 - **Response:** The department is using **Data Science** as a practical alternative and has shifted intervention labs to be **project-based** (e.g., using math to solve real-world problems like homelessness).

2. World Novel Course Proposal

Presenters: Dan Rouchy (ELA Supervisor) and Kate Wicander (Teacher)

The Proposal

- **Change:** Rename the 11th-grade honors "American Novel" course to "**World Novel.**"
- **Rationale:** The current 10th-grade curriculum already focuses heavily on American literature. Shifting to a global perspective avoids redundancy and aligns with the 11th-grade College Prep focus on global texts.
- **Proposed Texts:** * *Wuthering Heights* (European Romanticism)
 - *A Thousand Splendid Sons* (Middle Eastern Literature)
 - *The House of the Spirits* or *Like Water for Chocolate* (Latinx Literature)

Outcome

- **Budget:** Estimated cost is **\$750** for new texts, covered by the existing MHS operating budget.
 - **Approval:** The committee reached a consensus to support bringing this proposal to the full Board of Education meeting the following day.
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3. JROTC & Administrative Updates

Speaker: Colleen Fitzpatrick

- **JROTC Status:** The program is currently on hold. Due to interim leadership roles (Superintendent, Principal, and Colleen's role), the district is waiting for administrative stability before committing to the facility and budgetary requirements of a JROTC program.
 - **Future Meetings:** Starting in February, the committee plans to move to **in-person meetings** on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 PM, though a Zoom option for community members is being explored.
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Action Items

- **Yvonne Daniels:** Gather and share cohort-based SAT data to show student growth over time.
 - **Dan Rouchy/Kate Wicander:** Present the World Novel proposal at the Board of Education meeting on January 13th.
 - **Colleen Fitzpatrick:** Investigate hybrid (Zoom/In-person) options for future committee meetings.
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Adjournment: Committee Chair Kelly Bee then adjourned the meeting at 6.40P.