

**Windsor Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Meeting**

Monday, September 22, 2025 4:30 PM

Virtual Only, Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81825703822> Join via audio:
+1 646 558 8656 +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 818 2570 3822

Virtual Meeting
Windsor, CT 06095

1. Call to Order, Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence

Speaker(s): A. Taylor

2. Audience to Visitors

Speaker(s): A. Taylor

3. Updates to WHS Curriculum

Speaker(s): A. Taylor

- 3.a. Geometry

Speaker(s): B Fineman

- 3.b. English 12 Seminar

Speaker(s): B. Fineman

- 3.c. Human Geography, Global Studies

Speaker(s): B. Fineman

4. Adjournment

Speaker(s): A. Taylor

09.22.2025

Curriculum Sub-Committee

- Geometry
- English 12 Seminar
- Human Geography, Global Studies

Objectives

- Introduce the curriculum-writing team.
- Explain rationale for project.
- Review the definition of curriculum.
- Review contents of new curriculum map and units.
- Share next steps.
- Obtain feedback and answer questions.

What is curriculum?

- Pinar (2019) explains that it is:
 - Prescription- all students that take a course have access to the same learning
 - Course of Study- takes students from “A to Z”
 - Experiential- creates a learning experience
- Ladson-Billings (1995), Muhammad (2020) and others specify that it should encourage intellectualism, relationship-building, and lived experiences.

What curriculum is NOT?

- Lesson plans
- Lectures
- Textbooks/ books
- Only the voice of the teacher or curriculum designers
- Only from one perspective
- Facts without experiences

Geometry

→ [Curriculum Map](#)

→ Focus Unit

◆ [Unit 6](#)

Curriculum Team- Geometry

- Amy Cunningham, Jennifer Harrison, Nicole Kirchmeier, Emily Lorenzet
 - WHS Math Teachers
- Meagan Mains
 - STEM Supervisor
- Dr. Bonnie Fineman
 - Dir. Secondary Curriculum- Trainer/ Facilitator

Rationale for Project

- In 2023–2024, we adjusted our course sequence to place Geometry after Algebra 2. This change prompted a broader revision of our math curriculum across Geometry, Algebra 2, and Precalculus.
- Key highlights of the new curriculum:
 - **Builds on students’ prior knowledge** from Algebra 2, creating a more cohesive learning progression.
 - **Expands the trigonometry unit** in all course levels to better prepare students for upcoming changes in Precalculus.
 - **Aligns with our instructional philosophy** of “*experience first, formalize later,*” emphasizing conceptual understanding before procedural fluency.

Overview- Geometry

- 8 units
 - Building Blocks of Geometry
 - Triangles
 - Reasoning and Proofs
 - Quadrilaterals and Other Polygons
 - Similarity
 - Circles
 - Surface Area and Volume
 - Trigonometry

Curriculum Map

- [Curriculum Map](#)

Focus Unit

- Unit 6

Next Steps

- Seek full BOE approval.
- Begin to audit K-12 mathematics for vertical articulation and to look at entry points for improvement.

English 12 Seminar

- [Curriculum Map](#)
- Focus Unit
 - ◆ [Unit 1](#)

Curriculum Team- Senior Seminar

- Andrea Chudzik & Jasmine Kehrhahn
 - WHS English Teachers
- Dr. MJ Martinez
 - Humanities Supervisor
- Dr. Bonnie Fineman
 - Dir. Secondary Curriculum- Trainer/ Facilitator

Rationale for Project

- **English 12 Seminar** is a course meant to prepare seniors for the reading, writing, and critical thinking demands of a first-year college English course.
 - Introductory English courses generally require students to apply literary skills through an interdisciplinary lens.
- Seniors asked for more choice in their final year at WHS; English 12 Seminar is paired with an elective.
- Semester-long courses may encourage more engagement.

Overview- English Seminar 12

- 3 units
 - Understanding the Self
 - Literary Ethics: Exploring Morality through Narrative
 - Lens & Layers: Decoding Society

Curriculum Map

- [Curriculum Map](#)

Focus Unit

- Unit 1

Next Steps

- Seek full BOE approval.
- Provide instructional support for teachers of new courses, such as English 12 Seminar and the senior electives.

Human Geography

→ [Curriculum Map](#)

→ Focus Unit

◆ [Unit 6](#)

Curriculum Team- Human Geography

- Ryan Bennett & Francesca Alexander
 - WHS Social Studies Teachers
- Dr. MJ Martinez
 - Humanities Supervisor
- Dr. Bonnie Fineman
 - Dir. Secondary Curriculum- Trainer/ Facilitator

Rationale for Project

- **Human geography** is a great foundational course for freshmen because it covers how **humans– and their cultures, economies, societies, and politics– interact with their environment.**
- We expanded our AP offerings to include Human Geography; we wanted a non-AP version available to freshmen.
- The course covers an array of competencies like map reading, data analysis, and inquiry-based learning.

Overview- Human Geography

- 7 units of study including:
 - Thinking Geographically
 - Population and Migration Patterns
 - Cultural Patterns
 - Political Patterns
 - Agriculture and Rural Land Use
 - Cities and Urban Land Use
 - Industry and Economic Development

Curriculum Map

- [Curriculum Map](#)

Focus Unit

- Unit 6

Next Steps

- Seek full BOE approval.
- Continue to use our Discovery Education “techbook” as a central resource for high school social studies courses.
- Build a curated text set of primary and secondary sources (next summer).

Global Studies

- [Curriculum Map](#)
- Focus Unit
 - ◆ [Unit 6](#)

Curriculum Team- Global Studies

- Kier Kailas, Matthew Kabara, & Christine Fracasso
 - WHS Social Studies Teachers
- Dr. MJ Martinez
 - Humanities Supervisor
- Dr. Bonnie Fineman
 - Dir. Secondary Curriculum- Trainer/ Facilitator

Rationale for Project

- **Global Studies** is designed to show how **overarching themes** in global history consistently appear from 1200 to present; the course helps students **connect ancient and modern global history**.
- The new timeline and format of the course make it more likely that teachers will cover the present time.
- WHS students who attended Sage Park (the vast majority) learned about early global history for two years.

Overview- Global Studies

- 6 units
 - Empires, Beliefs, & Global Connections
 - Ideas That Shook The World: Enlightenment & Revolution
 - Engines of Change: The Industrial Revolution & Its Impact
 - War, Genocide, & Independence in a Divided World
 - A Connected World: Globalization, Cooperation, & Crisis

Curriculum Map

- [Curriculum Map](#)

Focus Unit

- Unit 6

Next Steps

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- Build a curated text set of primary and secondary sources (next summer).

BOE Members' Questions

- Notes

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Links to Curriculum Folders

- [Human Geography](#)
- [Global Studies](#)
- [English 12 Seminar](#)
- [Geometry](#)

Questions?

Dr. Bonnie Fineman
Dir. of Secondary Curriculum
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