

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday – January 9, 2014
VO-AG Community Room
Lyman Hall High School**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cei called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Castelli, J. Cei, K. Hlavac, J. Marrone, R. McKay, C. Miller, C. Shortell, M. Votto

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Backus, J. Castelli, R. Mancusi, B. McCully, C. McNamara, A. Meyer, S. Menzo, V. Reed, S. Parkhurst, M. Reid, M. Tyrrell

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Instructional Committee Meeting minutes of December 2, 2013 were accepted as presented with the exception of K. Hlavac and C. Shortell who abstained from voting. (Mrs. Hlavac and Mr. Shortell were not Board of Education members as of the December 2, 2013 Instructional Committee meeting.)

III. CURRICULUM

A. Approval of Community Revitalization Efforts of Wallingford (CREW) Trip to Oklahoma - April 13th to April 19, 2014

Michael Tyrell and Jennifer Castelli, both teachers in the Wallingford Public Schools, will be accompanying students from April 13, 2014 to April 19, 2014 on a CREW trip to Oklahoma. CREW (Community Revitalization Efforts of Wallingford) will be working with Habitat for Humanity in Moore, Oklahoma where much of the community was devastated by the May 2013 tornado. Habitat for Humanity does onsite training for all students and includes mandatory wearing of safety helmets, safety glasses/goggles and gloves at all times. All students will receive instruction if they will be using power equipment. Thirty students and ten chaperones will begin their work day at 7:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Castelli informed the Board that six of the chaperones are former CREW members.

Much of the funding for this trip has been through a gracious donation of \$8,000 from Wayne Barneschi, a local business owner and organizer of Wallingford's Trail of Terror. Mr. Barneschi has donated over \$60,000 to CREW during the past several years. In 2013 he donated \$8,000 from funds raised at the Trail of Terror. Mrs. McKay congratulated both Mr. Tyrell and Ms. Castelli along with their students, for all the hard work they have accomplished over the years in helping others in need.

The unanimous consensus of the Board, with the exception of Mr. Votto, was to send the proposed approval of the CREW Trip to Oklahoma from April 13, 2014 to April 19, 2014 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting. (Mr. Votto was not present during the vote).

B. Approval of Lyman Hall French Club Trip to Quebec, Canada – April 30th to May 3, 2014

Sean Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent, informed the Board the French Club at Lyman Hall High School is requesting to bring thirty students along with three chaperones to visit Quebec, Canada to expose students to Francophone Culture from April 30, 2014 to May 3, 2014. Students will arrive in Montreal where they have a scheduled walking tour of Old Montreal on the first day. During the remainder of the trip they will visit Montreal Parc Olympique and Bio Dome, the Montreal Archeological Museum, a walking tour of Old Quebec, a visit to Basilique St. Anne de Beaupre and a boat cruise on the St. Lawrence River. Mr. Miller stated he has concerns about students traveling outside the United States.

The unanimous consensus of the Board, with the exception of Mr. Miller voting no, was to send the proposed approval of the Lyman Hall French Club Trip to Quebec, Canada from April 30, 2014 to May 3, 2014 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

C. Proposed Deletion of H.S. Course – Latin 4

Mr. Parkhurst stated the rationale behind deleting Latin 4 is this course is currently operating as an Advanced Placement course without students receiving AP credit. Mr. Votto stated he had concerns about replacing an honors course with an AP course. He feels students who may not want to be in an AP class, will not have the option of being in an honors course in the future. He is not in favor of eliminating honors courses in the interest of adding Advanced Placement courses.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed deletion of high school course Latin 4 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

D. Proposed Addition of H.S. Course – Advanced Placement Latin 4

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed addition of high school course Advanced Placement Latin 4 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

E. Proposed Modification of H.S. Course – Advanced Topics in Mathematics

Mr. Parkhurst stated this agenda item would be tabled. The high school course Advanced Topics in Mathematics will remain the same for the next school year 2014-2015.

F. Proposed Deletion of H.S. Course – Business Mathematics

Mr. Parkhurst stated we are proposing to delete this course in order to align with the Common Core State Standards and Secondary School Reform. The topics covered in this course are also taught in courses offered by the Business and Family & Consumer Science Departments (Personal Finance and Life on Your Own).

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed deletion of high school course Business Mathematics to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

G. Proposed Deletion of H.S. Course – Advanced Placement Calculus

Mr. Parkhurst stated we are proposing to change the course in order to give enough time for students to cover Calculus 1 and Calculus 2. Calculus 1 will only be offered during the fall semester and students would meet every day. Calculus 2 will only be offered during the spring semester and students would meet each day.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed deletion of high school course Advanced Placement Calculus to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

H. Proposed Addition of H.S. Course – Advanced Placement Calculus 1

Mr. Parkhurst stated the addition of this course will provide students the opportunity to earn four credits at UCONN through the ECE program. Students will also be eligible to take the AP Calculus AB exam. Calculus 1 will only be offered during the fall semester and students would meet every day.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed addition of high school course Advanced Placement Calculus 1 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

I. Proposed Addition of H.S. Course – Advanced Placement Calculus 2

Mr. Parkhurst stated the addition of this course will provide students the opportunity to earn four credits at UCONN through the ECE program. Students will also be eligible to take the AP Calculus BC exam. Calculus 2 will only be offered during the spring semester and students would meet each day.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed addition of high school course Advanced Placement Calculus 2 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

J. Proposed Granting of Credit for Middle School World Language

Mr. Parkhurst stated three years ago, the Wallingford Public Schools began the implementation of daily world language instruction at the middle school level. The process began with the 6th grade and as that cohort moved through school, the implementation followed them. Those 6th graders are now in 8th grade in the current (2013-2014) school year and are currently in their third year of daily language instruction; from this point forward, approximately 85-90% of the incoming high school students will have had that depth of exposure to either French or Spanish upon entry to high school.

The majority of the students at the middle school are now having a language experience comparable to the first two years of language study at the high school. The high school Level 1 curriculum is split over Levels A and B in the middle school (generally courses that the students take in 6th and 7th grade) and the high school Level 2 curriculum mirrors that of Level C in the middle school (offered to 8th graders after the successful completion of Levels A and B). There is a small group of students enrolled in Level A of a language in 7th grade (approximately 25 students at each middle school) because they did not pass Level A in 6th grade, they were exited from intervention at the end of 6th grade and therefore 7th grade is their first opportunity to take a language, they are mandated to Resource Room, Speech Services, ELL services during the language time, etc. This small cohort of students then continues on to take Level B in 8th grade, thus completing only the Level 1 high school curriculum by the close of their middle school studies. The majority of the students, however, will have completed Level 2 of the high school curriculum upon completion of middle school.

Increasingly, students in middle-school grades are completing coursework, such as Algebra I or the first level of a foreign language. Districts are encouraged to provide such opportunities for students. The appropriate units of credit should be recorded on students' transcripts with the notation that those courses have been successfully completed prior to ninth grade and that the students began ninth grade with advanced standing.

Granting high school credit for middle school courses might allow students to pick up the study of an additional language in high school, take AP language by their senior year, and/or take Level 5 Spanish as a junior as a precursor to AP for advanced exposure to the language. The possibility of completing one's language study prior to senior (and/or junior year) in high school is also attractive to a growing number of students, as it would open up more time in their schedules to explore areas of interest outside of world languages, to dedicate to their capstone experience, etc.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed granting of credit for middle school World Language 2 to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Computer Replacements at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School

Dr. Menzo stated due to the recent flood at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School, there are fifty computers which are water damaged and need to be replaced. Randy Backus, the district's InfoTech director, informed the Board he spoke to several vendors and received the best quote from Advanced Corporate Networking. The cost of the Hewlett Packard computers (50) is \$39,316.00. Funding will come from unencumbered funds.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to approve the funding of the replacement computers at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School.

V. PRESENTATION

A. Early Childhood Exploratory Committee Presentation

Vicki Reed, principal at Highland Elementary School and Amanda Meyer, kindergarten teacher at Highland Elementary School, provided a power point presentation and a video entitled *Purposeful Play*. Ms. Reed stated she has created a drama room at Highland Elementary School which is comprised of five areas important for children when they engage in play. There is an area for drama, storytelling, block building/puzzles, housekeeping and art/drawing. Mrs. Meyer stated as a kindergarten teacher she provides the "appropriate scaffolding" for her students. She provides ideas for themes that will extend and enrich play. As her students mature and become used to playing in the drama room, she no longer needs to create a theme – the students will create their own themes. By the end of the kindergarten year the expectation is her students will be able to use symbolic representation, use language to create pretend scenarios, use complex interwoven themes, and be able to play during an extended period of time without a lot of adult supervision.

Mrs. Meyer added in the beginning of each school year she helps students plan their play, she monitors their progress, coaches those who may need help, models how themes can be interwoven and models how to solve disputes. The benefits of purposeful play are students learn self-regulation skills, language development, math skills and social skills. The present kindergarten structure is a half-day program which includes math instruction, language arts, science and social studies instruction.

The video entitled *Purposeful Play*, showed Mrs. Meyer's students engaged in each area of the drama room at Highland Elementary School. Many of the Board members stated it was wonderful to see these young students having a good time and involved in child-centered play. There were several preschool and nursery school teachers from community preschools and nursery schools in Wallingford, along with members of the Early Childhood Exploratory Committee present at the meeting, who were involved in a discussion about early childhood education and the importance of play and the development of social skills at the conclusion of the video.

VI. POLICY

A. Proposed Adoption of New Policy: Aquatic Activity Safety – 6142.63

This item was tabled and will be presented at the February 3, 2014 Instructional Committee Meeting.

B. Proposed Adoption of Revised Policy: Graduation Requirements – 6146 (IKF)

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed adoption of Revised Policy: Graduation Requirements – 6146 (IKF) to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

C. Proposed Adoption of Revised Regulation: Graduation Requirements – 6146a (IKF-R)

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed adoption of Revised Regulation: Graduation Requirements – 6146a (IKF-R) to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Cei adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCully
Assistant Superintendent's Secretary