

Tolland Board of Education

Curriculum Committee Minutes

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

Members Present: Jacob Marie (Chair), Jayden Regisford

Members Absent: Christina Plourd

Others Present: Dr. Willett (Superintendent of Schools)

Meeting called to order at 3:45pm

1. Major Curricular Program Adds in the Superintendent's Proposed Budget: Mr. Marie asked about new programs in the Math, English and Language Arts, and Special Education areas as large increases are proposed for these departments. Dr. Willett stated that most of the increases are due to recovery of programs that were purchased through pre-investments in previous years. Additional increases are due to updates for certain programs that have had an associated price increase. Mr. Marie asked if the district had selected a teacher to teach the Black/Latino American History class, stating that who teaches the class may affect the enrollment for the course. Dr. Willett stated that the teacher has been selected for the course. Mr. Marie asked if it would be possible to hire a 0.5 FTE history position instead of a full-time person given that the demand for the new course is still a bit uncertain. Dr. Willett said that the district could but he expressed concern about finding a qualified person who would be willing to accept a part time position. Mr. Regisford asked about pre-investments and Dr. Willett explained them and the affects they have on the budgetary process. Mr. Regisford asked how it is determined if a subject area has been neglected from a budgetary standpoint and whether there were any such neglected areas. Dr. Willett stated that coursework evolves with technology and state standards and new research. Mr. Marie asked about the personal finance course and whether any grants had been found to fund it. Dr. Willett stated that he is still looking for grants and that the district might also be able to utilize some corporate sponsors for the class.
2. Literacy How and its Successor Programs: Dr. Willett provided some background information on program lifecycles in general. Mr. Marie asked where the district is in terms of the lifecycle for the Literacy How program. Dr. Willett stated that the program is needed now and will be indefinitely, but it may be needed to a lesser degree than in the past. It will eventually have a successor program as part of the natural evolution of curriculum. Mr. Regisford asked about how decisions to purchase programs are made. Dr. Willett provided an overview of how administrators and the Superintendent work to reach purchasing decisions.
3. Adjournment: Mr. Regisford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:52pm and Mr. Marie seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Marie