

Tolland Board of Education

Curriculum Committee Minutes

August 5, 2021

Members Present: Jacob Marie (Co-Chair), Madhu Renduchintala (Co-Chair)

Members Absent: Christine Griffin

Others Present: Dr. Willett (Superintendent of Schools)

Meeting called to order at 3:32pm

1. Learning Loss and Remediation Efforts Update: Mr. Marie asked about the status of the Extended-School-Year (ESY) program and if any metrics were available to view. He also asked what efforts will need to be undertaken in the fall. Dr. Willett responded that the program would have its final week next week, and that there should be qualitative and quantitative data (but mostly qualitative) available for the Committee to view on student performance in September. For the fall, Dr. Willett stated that numerous efforts to address learning loss were being made. Advisory periods at THS will be retooled with an academic support focus. Afterschool academy programs will be expanded at both THS and TMS. Additionally, these academies will be staffed by certified teachers, which has not been the case in the past. Mr. Marie asked if these teachers were already in-district, and Dr. Willett clarified that they are. Additionally, the Academies will be staffed by a Remote Learning Assistant Educator, meaning one of the independent contract positions will be extended into the new school year. Dr. Willett also stated that for grades K-5 learning loss efforts will be conducted during school hours, as this works better for students of this age group. Co-teaching and Push-in support were two methods being pursued for younger students. Finally, increased PSAT/SAT support, along with Strategic-Intervention-Teams will be utilized.
2. Future:
 - A. Personal Financial Literacy Pros/Cons Discussion: Mr. Marie reiterated that he would like an executive summary for the Committee to review that covers all the aspects of what would need to happen and what the effects would be of making the Personal Finance course a graduation requirement. Dr. Willett stated that late fall would be the best time to have this as an agenda item as there will be adequate time to prepare.
 - B. SBAC Letter: Tabled
 - C. World Languages: Mr. Renduchintala would like to see expanded offerings at the middle school level. He stated that he would like to have the Curriculum liaison speak at an upcoming Committee meeting and give the Committee the pros/cons of expanding world language offerings. Dr. Willett mentioned that the district may be able to offer Spanish as a rotation course at TIS.
 - D. Pathways: Dr. Willett stated that work on the Engineering Pathway will resume in the fall and that it should be finalized for fall 2022. Mr. Marie reiterated that he would like an in-depth discussion on the new pathway between now and the launch date of the program.

3. Adjournment: Mr. Renduchintala moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:54pm. Mr. Marie seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Marie