

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday – April 3, 2017
Board of Education Conference Room**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Doerr called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Castelli, A. Doerr, S. Glidden, K. Hlavac, R. McKay, P. Reynolds

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Francese, J. Goodison, C. LaTorre, C. Laudadio, C. Lavalette, R. Mancusi, B. McCully, S. Menzo, P. Taylor

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Instructional Committee Meeting minutes of March 13, 2017 were accepted as presented.

III. CURRICULUM AND POSSIBLE CONSENSUS

A. Proposed Adoption of New Grade 7 English Language Arts Unit 4: Culture and Voice

Carrie Laudadio, Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator stated this is a unit which was redesigned from an existing grade 7 unit: Authors and Artists. It had strong connections to Social Studies curriculum in which geographic and current events in Latin America were taught. The unit now is more literary in nature and is focused on culture and voice. In this unit, students will read a variety of different texts that focus on the author's voice, experiences and culture - and how those components impact a piece of writing. The final performance task for this unit will be a personal memoir. Throughout this unit students will understand that culture and voice are insights into an authors' craft and effective readers use a variety of strategies to make sense of key ideas and details presented in a text. They will understand reading for meaning often requires imagining conversation with and questioning the author and that reading expands the understanding of the world, its people, and oneself. Students will understand that literature provides insights into key themes, dilemmas and challenges and reveals the nature and context of the culture in which it is produced. They will understand the author of an effective piece of text achieves his or her purpose with the intended audience.

Mrs. Laudadio stated students will be asked what key idea and theme does the author introduce and develop throughout the text, what role do culture and voice play in a literary piece, how do readers determine an author's tone or voice in a text, why should one evaluate what is read, how do audience and purpose influence the piece of writing, what elements and experiences define a person or character, how much does a person's culture or environment impact who they are, how do readers find elements about an author's personality or background in a text, what is the value in either reading or writing a memoir and how do the specific words and phrases a student chooses have an impact on the meaning and tone of their writing.

The consensus of the Board was to send the proposed adoption of new Grade 7 English Language Arts Unit 4: Culture and Voice to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

B. Proposed Adoption of High School Textbook – *Sociology and You*

James Francese, Humanities Coordinator stated these textbooks will be purchased with funds from this current school year for the start of the 2017-2018 school year. He introduced Patricia Taylor, Social Studies department head at Lyman Hall High School. Mr. Francese stated the current textbooks are outdated and in very poor condition after years of use. This new text includes a six-year subscription to extensive online resources that are not currently available. This purchase is a classroom purchase; not a per student purchase. The manufacturer's representative from McGraw-Hill is also prepared to provide an online seminar regarding the extensive online resources for our teachers at no cost. Online resources are updated on a cyclical basis. The district will purchase sixty copies of this textbook along with sixty student online six year subscriptions for a total cost of \$8,040. Mrs. Taylor stated there are currently four sections of Sociology being taught at Lyman Hall High School and five sections are scheduled for next year. She did not know how many sections are being taught at Sheehan High School.

The consensus of the Board was to send the proposed adoption of high school textbook – *Sociology and You* to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

C. Proposed Adoption of High School Textbook – *World History and Geography*

Mr. Francese stated these textbooks will be purchased with funds from this current school year for the start of the 2017-2018 school year. The current textbooks are outdated and in very poor condition after years of use. This new text includes a six-year subscription to extensive online resources that are not currently available. This purchase is a classroom purchase; not a per student purchase. The district will purchase two hundred seventy five copies of this textbook along with two hundred seventy five student online six year subscriptions for a total cost of \$36,850. Dr. Menzo asked if there is an online version of the assessments available. Mr. Francese stated he would get back to him with that information. Mrs. Taylor noted the curriculum for this course is based on themes; thus chapters are matched to individualized themes. Also, references within the text provide links to available powerpoints.

The consensus of the Board was to send the adoption of high school textbook – *World History and Geography* to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

The Board of Education heard parent concerns about amount of grades in PowerSchool, the Redo/Re-Take Request Form, electronic feedback on student work, the role of a regular education teacher in implementing special education, implementation of accommodations in the regular education classroom and district policy on lesson plans. The issues were referred to administration for review.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Doerr adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCully
Assistant Superintendent's Secretary