



**Minutes**  
**Curriculum & Professional Practices Committee**  
**Avon Board of Education**  
**34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

**Attendance**

**Members Present:** Jackie Blea, Chair; Debra Chute; Jennifer Das; Jeffrey S. Fleischman

**Member(s) Absent:** none

**Administration Present:** Dr. Bridget H. Carnemolla, Superintendent; Dr. Donna Nestler-Rusack, Assistant Superintendent

**Others Present:** Shirley Moy, Board Clerk

I. Call to Order

*Committee Chair Blea called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm*

II. Approval of May 27, 2021 Minutes

*Debra Chute moved, Jeffrey Fleischman seconded, to approve the May 27, 2021 Curriculum & Professional Practices minutes as presented.*

*The motion carried 3-0-1 (yay – Blea, Chute, Fleischman; abstained – Das as she was not on the committee during the May 27, 2021 meeting)*

III. Communications from the Public

There was no communications from the public.

IV. Course Proposal Recommendations

Dr. Rusack presented the Course Proposal Recommendation to the Committee which included:

- Changing English 9, 10, 11 and 12 to English I, II, III and IV  
Dr. Rusack explained this was basic housekeeping to keep the format of other courses.
- Adding Dystopia & Utopias to CP level  
Students asked that this course could be offered at a lower level as they are not ready to take it as a college level course explained Dr. Rusack.
- Adding True Crime Then and Now to CP level  
There was some concern from Committee members of the subject matter of this course including the psychological aspect of the concentrated area of serial killers and murderers. Dr. Rusack addressed their concerns and informed the Committee members that to make parents aware of the books and genres students were going to have access to all text that is used at the high school is posted on the website as well as stated on the syllabus the teachers distribute. Dr. Carnemolla acknowledged the Committee's concern whether or not some of the materials are developmentally appropriate. The Superintendent added that adding this course was based on students' request to take the course but not at the levels it was offered. After Committee

discussion, there was enough concern that the Committee wanted more discussion before moving this course up to the full Board. Dr. Rusack offered to have someone from the Language Arts Dept. speak to the Committee regarding this course and include the course in the Course of Studies as pending Board approval. Information on how this topic is offered statewide will also be presented.

- Changing Personal Finance to AP/ECE/CE levels to make this graduation requirement a college level experience

Committee members appreciated the opportunity to provide all students with a college experience but wanted assurance that all students would receive any support they needed with a college level experience course for students to be successful in the course. It was also confirmed that students can take this course pass/fail if a student is in Special Ed. Dr. Rusack added that this is in an agreement with Tunxis Community College and there is no charge for the course. Dr. Carnemolla added that this will allow all students access to a college level course without having to take an AP exam but agreed supports must be provided for students who find it a challenge. Dr. Rusack stated that students can take the course in their junior year to provide opportunity should they need to retake the course.

A special meeting in November will be held to further discuss the True Crime Then and Now course as well as the Program of Studies.

#### V. Update on Student Performance

Dr. Rusack shared with the Committee the results from the state assessments that were administered districtwide as well as the AimswebPlus full benchmark data that is administered in Grades K through 8. Dr. Rusack explained that last year the assessments were administered both in person and remotely with the majority of students coming into the schools to take the assessments. She also warned that the data are not directly comparable to each other, as in prior years, based on the nature of last year. Dr. Rusack added that the results will continue to be analyzed by the leadership team and the data teams which is a focus of the Blueprint for Excellence. These assessments included:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment, Overall Results Grades 3-8 for ELA & Mathematics
  - Also for Special Education Students, English Learner Students and by Gender
- Next Generation Science Standards, Overall Results Grades 5, 8 & 11
  - Also for Special Education Students, English Learner Students and by Gender
- CT SAT School Day Assessment, Overall Results Grade 11 for ELA and Math
  - Also for Special Education Students, English Learner Students and by Gender
- LAS Links Achievement, Overall Language Proficiency Level for Grades K-12
- AimswebPlus Fall 2021 Benchmark Data Grades K-6 for ELS
- AimswebPlus Fall 2021 Benchmark Data Grades K-6 for Mathematics

In regards to an ELL question, Dr. Rusack replied that the District was able to provide all ELL services throughout the pandemic, both in person and remotely, and using this data to program and plan instruction for ELL students. The Superintendent also explained the use of funding to acquire an additional ELL tutor. Dr. Rusack explained to the Committee the importance of the District administered AimswebPlus in helping provide more specific performance data by content to help support the students.

VI. Adjournment

***The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:57 pm.***

Minutes prepared by Shirley Moy, Board Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie Blea, Curriculum & Professional Practices Chair

*Jackie Blea, November 8, 2021*

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

*Jeffrey S. Fleischman, November 8, 2021*

***Board minutes are approved at the next Curriculum & Professional Practices meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.***