



Curriculum Advisory Committee

January 3, 2019

UES LGI

*Per BOG 006.2, all public meetings of the Board of Directors,
including committees, are audio recorded.*

Attending:

Board Members:

Andrew Ordovery

Community Members:

Amanda Benolken

Michelle Cosner

Trisha DiZio

Tonya Grieco

Sean Kielty

Lauren McDonough

Megan Skeuse

Ellen Stiefel

Meeting called to Order at 7:15

Approved Minutes from the (1/3/19) CAC Meeting

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Membership to committee update
 - All members introduced themselves
- AP Biology Textbook second review
 - [Linked - AP Bio](#)
 - Dr. Malone explained needs for a new text and why this one was selected.
 - Going to board for vote at February meeting.
- AP French Text - initial review and discussion.
 - New course for NHSD in place of Honors French 4 and 5.

- Ms. Connelly: AP French based on 3 modes of communication and 6 themes on things like identity, family, global challenges, etc.
- Course relies on authentic materials from French-speaking countries.
- Selected new course (*Thèmes*) by Vista Higher Learning (VHS) after intel gleaned from conference and seminar attendance.
 - Includes fine arts, literature, high-level questioning, good tech platform (integrates with Canvas).
 - 6-year license fits nicely with our own text renewal cycle.
- Expecting a small cohort of kids: 8-9 to low double-digits. Probably won't ever have more than a single section. Class set of 30 should be safe for the near future.
- Will come to board for a vote after a follow-up at this meeting in March.
- Questions:
 - Any concerns about a 6-year software license? Any risk that the company won't supporting for the full 6 years?
 - Tied to College Board and their schedule. Haven't run into this problem in the past.
 - Some companies have better service and support than others, but this one seems solid.
 - Any orientation to culture of AP for students?
 - Yes, at course selection night.
 - Counselors did a really nice job at this year's meeting.
 - Pre-AP courses like new Global Extensions help step kids up to the world of AP.
 - How do we decide whether or not to offer a new AP course if the student numbers are low?
 - Local decision around holding to minimum of 15; our call.
 - Offering some courses in alternating years to test interest.
- Course selection and programming follow up
 - Question from January board meeting: How do we decide which courses to keep or retire?
 - We look at PDE and NHSD graduation requirements and available elective credits.
 - Through internal curriculum review, we look at what students have been asking for and what staff has expertise and interest in.
 - For example, we've had feedback from students and parents to move away from traditional English 12 and offer more elective options.
 - New mandated course on career explorations at grade 9 matches new state standards on career readiness and what the state is requiring of school districts.
 - Keystones are still required, but certain requirements have been loosened by the state.
 - Are AP courses offered without requiring that students take the test?
 - We recommend that they take the test, but we can't and don't require it.

- We also offer independent study, where a student can prepare for an AP test with a teacher, in a subject where there isn't sufficient demand to fill a course.
 - Students can also take CLEP exams at Bucks County Community College in a dual enrolment structure.
- MS Programs of Studies process - Mr. Loving and Mrs. Robtison
 - Grade level meetings coming up after President's Day weekend, including individual meetings with rising 6th graders now at UES.
 - Course requests MUST be entered before spring break (April 12). Then teacher recommended courses will be locked.
 - May change after locking based on student progress in spring.
 - MS is more prescribed than HS, but students do have some say.
 - Current MSers will do course selection digitally.
 - Elective choices at MS really driven by musical interests.
 - May be swapping Robotics with Studio Art, because music students haven't been able to access Robotics as currently scheduled.
 - Both French and Spanish are offered as 5-7 week specials, to help students decide what they like.
 - STEM course will continue, after last year's intro by Mr. Smith.
 - Grade 6:
 - All core classes in morning, with specials after lunch (mixed with 7th and 8th graders).
 - 8th period Academic Period and Friday Advisory remains (including new self-selected club rotations this year).
 - Grade 7 offers a few more choices:
 - Select Spanish or French.
 - Semester specials include 2 health options, art and film, tech ed.
 - Bell schedule is challenging: same as Grade 6 in the afternoon.
 - Grade 8
 - Similar to 7th, but bell schedule is different.
 - Design tech is new Grade 8 offering.
 - First chance for honors level English (requires teacher rec).
 - First time in MS that a subject is differentiated. In 6-8, there are 2-3 different math options based on student need.
 - Reading is also offered at all three grade levels, for those students who need it (based on UES teacher rec and PSSA scores)—offered during specials or foreign language. Students can still pick up level 1 language in Grade 9 if they need it.
 - 3 SpEd teachers—one for each grade.
 - 1 Gifted teacher across grades.
 - Future considerations:
 - Providing More reading, writing, math time in 6-7.
 - Offering Robotics to all students in Grade 6.
 - What happens if a 6th grader misses Robotics because of music?
 - Possible to join VEX club after school with Mr. Smith.

- Other juggling may be possible.
 - Meeting PA339 Standards in Career Readiness—may require a new rotation class for Grade 8.
 - February Professional Development (Feb 14)
 - District and Building level work
 - Department/Grade Level Curriculum Review Meetings
 - Safe schools, Career ready index, other topics mandated by PDE + parent conferences.
 - Project Based Learning
 - HS training in the afternoon because they won't have parent conferences.
 - Best Practices Showcase on Friday, Feb. 15
 - 25 differentiated offerings that teachers can select from:
 - More PBL for K-8
 - Behavior interventions
 - Classroom environment
 - Guided reading
 - Thinking routines and tech pairings
 - Tidying up your Google Drive
 - LES tech trends
 - Using green screens
 - Using "Formative" or "PearDeck"
 - Math problem-solving
 - Executive function
 - Visual note-taking
 - Finding your Why
 - Navigating IEPs
 - Transatlantic outreach program (TOP)
 - Presence in the classroom
 - "Albert" overview and training
 - Personalized tech offering to replace Study Island—marketed first to AP teachers (pilot for this year).

Public Comment

- Mel Band:
 - Asked for master schedule in a Right to Know request in previous years. Asks for master schedule to be posted on the district website for openness and transparency.
 - Malone: Hard to post as it's a moving target that changes frequently, but it's available to anyone who asks the HS principal for it, more 1:1
 - Health Ed: Section [1547](#) of the school code stipulates that certain health ed topics must be taught in every grade, K-12. But we offer only two terms of health at the HS level. How many lessons are given, and who is teaching them?
 - Malone: we are in compliance with state requirements (see link above, esp:

- “In grades where health is not offered, instruction shall be integrated into an appropriate curriculum requirement.”
- Handwriting instruction: hears from parents that students can't write in cursive and are worried about it. Are we teaching it?
 - Malone: It is taught explicitly: Zaner-Bloser model, grade 2-3 with practice throughout.
 - But concerned parents can certainly support handwriting at home.
- History textbook dates to 2001 and needs updating.
 - Malone: it's a 20th century history course, and the text is fine as it is. We provide ancillary and online content from other resources outside of the core text to keep things up to date.

Next Meeting at March 7, 7:15 PM

Adjournment at 8:18PM



NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
*Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering All Students
through a World-Class Education*

Committee Meeting Sign-In and Attendance 2-7-2019

Name (Please Print)	Committee (C) or Public (P)
Melvin Band	C (P)
Michelle Cosner	(C) P
Tonya Grieco	(C) P
Denise Connolly	C P Teacher
HEATHER ROBTISON	C P Counselor
Brian Loving	C P Ms Principal
Trish D'Zio	(C) P
Liz Sweeney	(C) P
Tara Hedlund	(C) P
Stephanie Marrone	(C) P
Ellen Stiefel	(C) P
Chuck Malore Admin	C P
Chuck Lutz admin	C P
Alyse Martin admin	C P
Amanda Benolken admin	(C) P
	C P
	C P
	C P
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	C P

Please note: This sign-in sheet will be included in the meeting minutes and posted to the District's website.