

Committee on American Civics - AGENDA

Alma Public Schools

Monday, May 10, 2021

- A. Call to Order and announce location of Open Meetings Act Poster
 - 1. Verification of Receipt of Notice, which was published in the Harlan County Journal
 - 2. Roll of Board Members - Excuse absent board members
 - 3. Minutes from Previous Meetings
- B. Request to address the Board
- C. Action Items - Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action
 - 1. to review previous information discussed at the last meeting.
 - 2. to discuss whether to add or change the schools American Civics plans.
- D. Next Regular Meeting
- E. Adjourn

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 WILL DISCUSS, CONSIDER, OR TAKE ACTION ON ALL ISSUES MENTIONED IN THIS AGENDA.

Committee on American Civics

1. The Committee on American Civics: Each year (January reorganization meeting) the school board will appoint 3 board members to serve on the Committee.
2. The Committee must meet at least twice per year.
3. One of those meeting shall allow public testimony.
4. The Committee is required to keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, those in attendance and the substance and details of all matters discussed.
5. The Committee is to: a. Examine the social studies curriculum to ensure that it aligns with NDE Standards, LB 399's requirements and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography. b. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in our national independence. c. Ensure that the approved curriculum is accessible to the public and the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments.
6. All social studies courses approved shall include and adequately stress contributions of all ethnic groups to (a) the development and growth of America into a great nation, (b) art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the military in all of this nation's war. 7. Students in 8th and 12th grade will take a written test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of 8th and 12th grade.
8. The individual students score from the test will be made available to a parent or guardian of the student.
9. Grade levels below 6th grade: At least one hour per week is to be devoted to exercises teaching American history topics. Noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans; The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs - the Star Spangled Banner, American the Beautiful; The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom and the proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.
10. Between 5th grade and 8th grade there must be time "set aside" for the teaching of American History. All students shall be taught in such a manner that all students are given the opportunity to (a) become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world. 11. At least two courses in every high school shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history. (a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state; b) The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism; (c) The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and (d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.
12. "Appropriate patriotic exercises" are to be held on George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthdays, Native American Heritage Day (Columbus Day), Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

13. Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section. Neglect thereof by any employee may be considered a cause for dismissal

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationStanding Committee on American Civics

It shall be the policy of Alma Public Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall consist of three members appointed by the Board President or the superintendent. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year. One of the responsibilities of this committee will be to examine recommended social studies textbooks and report findings based on this examination to other members of the Board of Education. The Committee shall take all other steps to ensure compliance with Nebraska law.

It shall further be the policy of Alma Public Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall review all major proposals prepared by the superintendent of schools and instructional staff for adoption of new textbooks, development of new instructional programs, revision of existing instructional programs, modification of established graduation requirements, and other related matters. After the review is completed, the Committee on Curriculum and Americanism will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education about approval or adoption of the matter under consideration.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724
 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-520
 LB 399 (2019)
Date of Adoption: [June 10, 2019]