Curriculum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 4:30 PM
Curriculum Committee - Virtual - Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87096279023 Join via audio: +1 646 558 8656 +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 870 9627 9023, Virtual Meeting, Windsor, CT 06095

1. **Call to Order, Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence**
2. **Audience to Visitors**
3. **Updated Civics Curriculum**
4. **Update on K-5 Reading Program**
5. **Adjournment**

04.29.2025

Curriculum Sub-Committee

→ WHS Civics Curriculum

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Presented by: Dr. Bonnie Fineman

Objectives

- Introduce the curriculum-writing team.
- Explain rationale for project.
- Review the definition of curriculum.
- Review contents of new curriculum map and units.
- Share next steps.
- Obtain feedback and answer questions.

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WHS Civics Curriculum

- Curriculum Map
- Curriculum Units
  - Unit 1
  - Unit 2
  - Unit 3
  - Unit 4

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Curriculum Team

- Ryan Bennett, Steve Marinelli, and Christine Fracasso
  - WHS Social Studies Teachers
- Dr. MJ Martinez
  - Humanities Supervisor
- Dr. Bonnie Fineman
  - Dir. of Arts & Humanities- Trainer/ Facilitator

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What is curriculum?

- Pinar (2019) explains that it is:
  - Prescription- all students that take a course have access to the same learning
  - Course of Study- takes students from "A to Z"
  - Experiential- creates a learning experience
- Ladson-Billings (1995), Muhammad (2020) and others specify that it should encourage intellectualism, relationship-building, and lived experiences.

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What curriculum is NOT?

- Lesson plans
- Lectures
- Textbooks/ books
- Only the voice of the teacher or curriculum designers
- Only from one perspective
- Facts without experiences

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Rationale for Project

- The study of civics is a critical element of a public school education- “democratic education” or “democratic core” (Beane & Apple, 2007).
- Civics is a requirement for graduation.
- There have been recent, rapid changes to fundamental institutions in the United States.
- We needed to explore new resources and texts, and update the standards.

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Changes to New Map- Civics

- Use a new model- *Open Up Resources*- to design templates for the map and units.
- Designed four units and modeled the course after AP Government and Politics.
  - Increased comprehensiveness, complexity, and depth.
- Updated overarching themes.
- Added Authentic Application Tasks (AATs) to all units.
- Aligned academics to SEL.

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Overview- Map

- Curriculum Map

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Overview- Units

- Unit 1
- Unit 2
- Unit 3
- Unit 4

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Next Steps

- Seek full BOE approval.
- Finalize and present US History course to sub-committee.

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BOE Members' Questions



- Add notes of questions/responses…

Questions?

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