

Seymour Board of Education

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 30, 2020

Zoom

4:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/11/2020
TIME: 11:50 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Bruno
Jim Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rob Dyer, Director of Technology
Jodie Roden, Principal SMS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal SMS
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 4:01 p.m.

II. INFORMATION

A. Impact of Unfunded Positions

Ms. Tencza reported on the positions that were requested in the budget which were eliminated due to funding. This includes the .4 addition to the music teacher at the high school. Ms. Harmeling asked what impact this had on students' schedules. Ms. Tencza said that approximately 60 students would not be able to take one of their electives, Keyboarding and Recording. Those students were placed in other electives. Ms. Bruno asked if there was a chance of this position getting restored. Mr. Strumello said only if more money should be allocated from the town, at this time we should look at this as final.

B. High School Course Offerings

Ms. Tencza reported that, as it occurs every year after doing schedules at the high school, there would be some courses not offered due to insufficient enrollment. Mr. Garofolo asked what was the base number to conclude lack of enrollment. Ms. Tencza stated that a few years ago with board input, the parameter was established that any class with 10 or less is the benchmark. The committee had several questions on various section sizes and course offerings. Ms. Tencza told the board that once the schedule was complete she would supply the board with a list of course offerings, total sections, and the amount of students in each section.

C. Middle School Unified Arts Schedules

Ms. Freimuth gave an example of students' schedules for 6, 7, and 8th grade for this year, where the Unified Arts teachers this year wanted to try having some of the classes done by quarters. Upon reflection this was not effective. Next year all Unified Arts class will be either semester or whole year classes. The new courses proposed in the following section will have no impact on the schedules for the students.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Middle School Course Revisions

Ms. Roden would like to see two course revisions for next year. Ms. Roden would like to see the return of the Computer Science course in an updated fashion at the middle school replacing Personal Finance. Ms. Roden and Ms. Freimuth have spoken to Dan Sorge and they felt not all students are coming into the middle school with a firm grasp of basic computer concepts especially the Google Platform. This would allow content teachers to spend more time on subject matter and less time on the actual use of the technology. Each grade for this course would have a very specific curriculum, with focus areas

including web design, problem solving, and coding. In the future they would also like to have an Advanced Computer class for those students who have mastered the basics and have a desire for more advanced computer knowledge. Ms. Harmeling felt this would also be a nice fit for collaboration with the new Library/Media Curriculum. Ms. Harmeling wanted to thank Mr. Sorge for this undertaking. Ms. Roden would like to change General Music to Music History to be able to reach out to a variety of learners. This would include researching music and composers as well as the evolution of music. The middle school would like to expose students to many different kinds of music. Mr. Dobas and Ms. Meek would collaborate on this curriculum, and work with the high school music department, so they don't overlap. Ms. Harmeling would like full course descriptions to present to the full board.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec. Ms. Bruno) to move the middle school course revisions to the full Board for approval.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report
None

B. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Tencza wanted to thank the committee for agreeing to meet again. She assured the committee that administrators are working hard supporting our teachers with distance learning. Administrators are beginning discussions on summer school, summer curriculum, and on how to transition our students back. All staff are working extremely hard.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo /sec. Ms. Bruno) to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle