

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2020**

On December 22, 2020 the Curriculum Subcommittee held its regular meeting using the Zoom on-line meeting platform.

In Attendance: Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, and Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Dr. Samantha Meier and Dr. Emily Flores

Call of Meeting to Order

Dr. Pangallo called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve the December 1, 2020 Subcommittee Minutes. Dr. Pangallo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made.

Ms. Campbell Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Motion carries 2-0

High School Program of Studies

Ms. Carbone explained to the Subcommittee that the high school team re-evaluates the program of studies every year and does some re-alignments. This meeting with the Subcommittee is the first conversation regarding the program of studies and look for initial feedback. The second draft of the program will be presented to the Subcommittee at the January 7th meeting and then plan to present to the full School Committee in February.

Dr. Meier began the presentation by explaining that the changes to the program are part revisions and also to align with the redesign plan which will include: relevancy, relationships, and equity & access.

She stated that they are working towards a school wide standards based shift and hoping to be completely shifted by 2022-2023. She explained that seven courses have been removed for either low enrollment, combined with another course or change of alignment. They have also modified courses. For example, the Math Department wants to create as many opportunities for students as possible to earn math credits. Previously, the classes have been a year long course. They have now split in half and will offer semester long courses instead. This will give

the student flexibility to earn credits and the opportunity to explore other courses. And courses that have been added, particularly to the CTE Program.

A question was raised regarding the business courses and it was explained that although there is no business department, they continue to offer courses that would fulfill that interest.

Dr. Flores explained that the first few pages of the Program of Studies will be a chart of coursework which will outline the advanced courses and college level learning courses offered.

Ms. Campbell asked why AP French was being removed and Dr. Flores responded that they currently offer Level 1 to 5 and in addition, AP. Level 5 is competing with the AP level, which amounts to low enrollment.

In addition, questions were asked regarding involvement at the middle school level and Dr. Flores explained that they are reaching out to 6th and 8th graders. Also, they are giving 8th graders options to take courses to give them college credits.

Dr. Zrike asked a question about if the number of AP classes was being reduced and how much thought went into planning the early college learning courses. Dr. Flores responded that they are taking this all into consideration as they are planning, but these are just primary proposals and the departments are working on any changes that will be presented to the Subcommittee at the next meeting. Ms. Carbone added that the high school team tried not to disrupt this year with too many changes.

The next Curriculum Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2021.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 5:40 pm. Dr. Pangallo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Campbell Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Motion carries 2-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

Executive Assistant to the School Committee

Approved January 7, 2021