

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2021**

On March 25, 2021 the Curriculum Subcommittee held its regular meeting using the Zoom on-line meeting platform.

In Attendance: Ms. Amanda Campbell and Dr. Kristin Pangallo

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, Dr. Samantha Meier, Dr. Emily Flores and Ms. Amie Capodanno, Ms. Margaret Russo, Ms. Barbara Crock and Ms. Lori Marendia

Call of Meeting to Order

Dr. Pangallo called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve the January 7, 2021 Subcommittee Minutes. Dr. Pangallo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made.

Ms. Campbell Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Motion carries 2-0

Discussion of Standards-Based Grading at the High School

Standards-based grading was rolled out to K-8 back in January, but it is more difficult to navigate at the high school level. Dr. Flores and Ms. Russo presented to the committee the standards based grading practices.

The objectives are as follows:

1. Explain structure of teacher supports in place for standard based practice proficiency
2. Share communications to parent/family and higher education institutions

They presented the timeline for standards based practice shift:

- 2014 began with a grant
- 2016-2017 SHS Vanguard team spent a year studying standards based grading
- Created the 4 point proficiency scale and set up the grade 9 pilot year
- By 2022-2023 the entire High School shift will be complete.

Superintendent Zrike entered the meeting at 7:07 pm

Objective 1: Both the challenges and the benefits of standard based grading were discussed. Some benefits include alignment to state standards and district curriculum maps, help teachers focus on what to teach, increases equity and consistent grading practices across the district. In addition, Dr. Flores explained the support that is in place for the teachers, including weekly CPTs, monthly department meeting collaborations, full faculty PD and summer PD opportunities. A survey was also conducted to ask teachers what they would need now and what they would need later to deepen proficiency in standard based practices..

Objective 2: Ms. Capodanno explained the plan for parent/family and higher education institutions communications. In addition, she said that on the school profile a definition of standard based grading was included with the explanation that it will be added on transcripts that are sent to colleges. At the end of the year, they will transfer a letter based grade to the transcript.

Several questions were asked by the Committee for further clarification of the benefits of standards based grading practices.

Early College Expansion

Dr. Meier

Dr. Samantha Meier began the presentation with outlining 2 objectives:

- build alignment and investment in the concept and importance of Early College as a tool to increase student postsecondary success and close equity gaps
- build understanding and consensus around a shared vision and potential plans for expanding the Early College program at Salem High School to include “the Promise” of an Associates degree during a 5th year of high school

Dr. Meier presented research as to why early college is so important. She explained that some research showed that college is a gateway to careers offering income security and is a great equalizer regarding wages. The program also offers no cost to the student and no admission requirements. Students would receive enhanced academic and guidance support to ensure they thrive in the rigorous college coursework. Students would then graduate from high school with significant college credits. She also explained that early college is designed to support Black and Latinx students, students that have received EL or IEP support, students who are interested in attending college but may face financial challenges and also first-generation college students. They also reported that early college graduates enrolled in college at higher rates than their peers.

The vision for expanding early college includes expanding to the 10th grade, allowing more credits for 11th-12th grade and adding the early college promise (5th) year. This will allow students to earn a full Associate's degree or 60 transferable credits towards a Bachelor's degree at no cost to them. In addition, depending on their progress, they would be invited to apply for an implementation grant to pilot in SY22-23 from the Smith Family Foundation. The plan is to begin recruitment in SY21-22 and plan to launch with at least 20 students in SY22-23.

PE Graduation Requirement

Dr. Meier explained that for the students in the Class of 2020, participation in either JROTC or a sport at any time in the school career will receive 0.5 credit (1 semester) of PE credit. This would be a one time waiver. In addition, it was proposed that students in the Class of 2020 will be eligible to receive 0.5 credit (1 semester) toward their math requirement for completion of Personal Finance. Dr. Pangallo stated that this was discussed in the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve the district's proposal to substitute the Physical Education and Finance requirements in the Program of Studies for 2020-2021 and refer for approval to the full School Committee. Dr. Pangallo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Campbell Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Motion carries 2-0

Ms. Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 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 May 17, 2021