

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Committee Minutes  
October 10, 2018

**Committee Members Present**

Mrs. Sharon Collopy, Chairperson  
Mrs. Beth Darcy  
Mrs. Jodi Schwartz  
Mr. Dennis Weldon

Dr. John Kopicki, Superintendent  
Dr. Nadine Garvin, Asst. Superintendent  
Dr. Abram Lucabaugh, Asst. Superintendent

**Others in Attendance**

Mr. Glenn Schloeffel, Board President

Mr. John Gamble, Board Vice-President

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES**

The September 12, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/UPDATES:**

Mrs. Collopy noted that there had been a change in the posted agenda. Dr. Kopicki explained that the Administration is taking the Board's recommendation (from the last Committee meeting) that no change be made to the Health & Physical Education curriculum. The agenda item has been removed since there will be no change to the 75/25 ratio of activity/classroom work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL:**

**AP Microeconomics:** Mr. Scott Berger, K-12 Supervisor – Social Studies, presented details for a new AP Microeconomics course of study for the 2019-2020 school year. CB already offers an AP Macroeconomics course, and Mr. Berger noted the differences between the two courses. Units of study for Microeconomics were discussed, including Basic Economic Concepts and the Nature and Function of Products and Markets. Final exam details were reviewed, including a 60-question multiple choice test and a free response requirement. The recommendation would be that this course would be an option for eleventh and twelfth-grade students, replacing the eleventh and twelfth-grade Social Studies required credit. Macroeconomics is currently offered to twelfth-graders, the recommendation is that it also be offered to eleventh-graders as a replacement for the Social Studies required credit. The course would be an 18-week course with the same pre-requisites as AP Macroeconomics. The textbook recently purchased for Macroeconomics would cover the proposed Microeconomics course. Teacher training for the Microeconomics course would be available this summer. Mr. Berger noted that the state is mandating that students take a civics test by 2020. Students do not have to pass the test to graduate but must show proficiency at a level determined locally. A civics test would be offered to eleventh-graders as part of any economics course given in the district. Dr. Kopicki asked if there were any regulations preventing the offering of AP courses at the ninth and tenth-grade level. Dr. Lucabaugh confirmed there were no regulations preventing that, however the College Board has not endorsed the practice of AP coursework at the ninth-grade level. Dr. Kopicki remarked he liked the idea that the district is offering more course options to students, and a discussion should be held regarding the idea of offering AP courses to highly-motivated ninth and tenth-grade students. Mrs. Collopy noted the AP test shown in the presentation was a test offered as a national exam that students could sign up to take, it was not a mandatory requirement. Students will be required to take a final exam within the CB course offering. Mrs. Darcy asked if data showed that offering two options (like AP Psychology and AP Macroeconomics)

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meant more twelfth-graders took AP courses. Mr. Chris Johnson (CB East Social Studies Coordinator) noted that at East, total enrollment at the twelfth-grade level rose dramatically. Mrs. Darcy asked if the students were performing well, Mr. Johnson indicated they were. The Committee agrees to send the recommendation to the full board for approval.

**Guitar; Music Creation, Production and Marketing; Musical Theater and Technology:** Mr. Mike Gruver, K-12 Coordinator – Music, presented details for three new electives to be offered at the high school level. Mr. Gruver reviewed current course offerings, which generally appeal to performance-based students. He shared information on three hallmark programs that highlight the commitment to musical excellence and the partnership with the community: The VH1 Save the Music Benefit Concert, the annual Doylestown Memorial Day parade, and county music festivals. The three proposed courses will appeal to a wider audience, including students that may have a passion for music but who are not enrolled in a performance-based class. Details were provided for each course of study. The Guitar course would be open to students at all levels of proficiency, and acoustic guitars would be offered to each participant at a cost of approximately \$100/each. Mrs. Collopy noted that cost was comparable to purchasing a textbook for a course. Mr. Gruver agreed, and commented that none of the three proposed courses would require a textbook. He has visited Council Rock and Centennial to view their guitar courses and review their practices. Mr. Schloeffel asked how differing levels of ability would be addressed in the course, Mr. Gruver stated that more experienced students could be used as “co-teachers”. The Music Creation course would be open to students interested in writing their own music and producing and marketing it in a variety of ways. Mrs. Collopy asked if the courses were going to be offered as either nine-week or eighteen-week courses, Mr. Gruver noted after receiving approval for the courses those details will be discussed and determined. Mrs. Collopy remarked that if the goal was to appeal to “non-music” students, a nine-week course offering would be necessary. Dr. Lucabaugh commented that offering the courses as both a nine-week and an eighteen-week course increases opportunity and access to all students. Mr. Gamble commented that students don’t take non-weighted courses because they are concerned about their GPA and class rank. He noted that may explain why some students that are musically gifted don’t take CB music courses. Mr. Gruver offered details on the Musical Theater and Technology course, noting the intention was not to put on a play but to expose students to the behind-the-scenes work like choreography, set design and lighting, and backstage work. It will provide an overview of the efforts that go in to putting on a production. Mrs. Collopy presented a question from Mrs. Smith, who could not be here tonight. Mrs. Smith offered strong support for the class but wondered if the scope of the Musical Theater and Technology course was too large. She also asked who would be qualified to teach the class. Mr. Gruver noted that many CB teachers have been extremely involved in CB theater productions and would be well qualified to teach the class. The course would also provide an opportunity to involve the community, providing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the students. Other districts offer this class as a Theater 1 and Theater 2 option, which could be explored based on the response to the course. Dr. Kopicki thanked Mr. Gruver for the effort involved in meeting the CB Goal of “leading the way” by investing the time and commitment in developing these courses. Mr. Schloeffel noted he would like to see a course like the guitar course offered for keyboard. The Committee agrees to recommend the three proposed 2019-2020 courses to the full board for approval.

**AP Chemistry:** Mrs. Laura E’Nama, K-12 Supervisor – Science, presented details for a proposed Revised Scope and Sequence for an AP Chemistry course. She reviewed the current pathway to AP Chemistry, noting it takes more than one year to complete the coursework. Mrs. E’Nama proposed adding two courses - offering an accelerated pathway through AP Chemistry: Pre-AP Chemistry offered in the fall

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covering all high school Chemistry and some College Board Chemistry, and AP Chemistry II offered in the spring - completing the AP curriculum by the time the AP test is offered in May. After the test in May, students would have the opportunity to explore Organic Chemistry. This model would provide an accelerated pathway that allows students to complete the AP Chemistry curriculum in 1 year. Mrs. Darcy remarked that she believed the accelerated pathway would provide more consistency in instruction, as well as offer students an additional open block of time that would previously not have been available to them. She also asked if the second course could be dropped if a student struggles with the first course. Mrs. E'Nama noted the pre-requisite for the second course would be a grade C or better in the first course (with teacher recommendation). If a student really struggled with the first course, the second course could be dropped. The student would still meet their high school Chemistry requirement, but not be prepared for the AP Chemistry exam. The Committee agrees to recommend the proposal to the full board for approval.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Mrs. E'Nama presented details for a new high school elective, which will be an 18-week course offering. This course will engage students in exploring, debating, and proposing solutions to current issues. The focus on exploring current issues at both the local and global scale will provide an authentic and relevant learning experience for students. Further, the focus on debating and proposing solutions will provide an opportunity for students to analyze and interpret data, evaluate information, use computational thinking, engage in argument from evidence, and construct explanations. The course will expose students to a variety of promising college majors and careers. It is being recommended that with the addition of Environmental Sustainability, two current offerings be removed from the Central Bucks Program of Study: Geology and the Environment and Environmental Science. The new course offering will allow students to be exposed to the topic beyond the science portion and give them an opportunity to see how the information could be applied to career opportunities in many different areas. The course would be a problem-based course, requiring students to review current information on an issue; complete experiments and projects to understand the science behind the issue; gain better understanding of their role and responsibility within that issue; and a present a culminating activity that will offer a solution to the issue. The course would provide students with the opportunity for critical thinking and interdisciplinary application. Mrs. E'Nama noted there is a lot of growth in Environmental Science fields, and this course would provide CB students with exposure to the options available in this area of study. Mrs. Collopy asked about material/textbook requirements, Mrs. E'Nama noted the course will be supported by current textbooks. Mrs. Darcy commented that the two science courses presented tonight do a good job of meeting the needs of our students and the paths they are taking beyond high school. The Committee agrees to recommend the proposal to the full board for approval.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2018