

**CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Curriculum Committee Minutes**  
**October 8, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Gamble, Chairperson  
Gerri McMullin, Member  
Kelly Unger, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Steve Corr	Dr. David Bolton	Scott Berger
James Duffy	Dr. Nancy Silvious	Richard Kratz
Paul Faulkner	Dr. David Weitzel	Dr. Alyssa Walloff
Joe Jagelka		

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jerel Wohl

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Curriculum Committee Minutes from May 14, 2014 were approved as presented.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**Requesting Approval for *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green**—Alyssa Walloff presented regarding this suggested core novel for Academic English 9. It will provide a narrative style mentor text that includes literary allusions, challenging vocabulary, symbolism, and metaphors.

Board members discussed some of the language and sexual references in the text but ultimately agreed that it was well-written and served as a text for students to speak about cancer. This book will move to a board meeting for consideration for approval by a vote of 2-1 of the three Curriculum Committee members present.

**Requesting Approval of new Course of Study for “Introduction to Computer Programming” and the accompanying textbook *Introduction to Computer Programming* by Dann, Cooper, and Pausch** —Rich Kratz presented this new nine-week elective that would be offered at all three high schools. This course introduces students to the concepts of programming using Alice, an innovative three-dimensional programming environment. This course will serve as a strong introduction and serve as a third computer course for students who are interested.

J. Gamble commented that this will be an attractive course for those students who currently play three-dimensional games like “Minecraft”. J. Jagelka expressed that he would like to see this type of curriculum offered for younger students. Both the Course of Study and the textbook will be considered for approval by the Board.

**Requesting Approval for an updated textbook for Advanced Placement European History; *A History of Western Society* by McKay, Crowston, Wiesner, Hanks, and Perry** —Scott Berger presented that this updated textbook fits the new AP format and includes additional on-line features for our students. It was piloted last year in all three high schools and has the recommendation of those teachers. This book will be considered for approval at an upcoming board meeting.

**Requesting Approval of new Course of Study for “Geography”**—Scott Berger presented this new nine-week elective that would be offered at all three high schools. It would utilize an online resource called Geography Alive and would serve as the fourth elective offered in Social Studies. P. Faulkner commented on the number of students who struggle with Geography. G. McMullin commented on the need for a course like this. This course will be considered for approval at an upcoming board meeting.

**Revised School Board Policy 100 – Comprehensive Planning** — This policy revision updates our policy to incorporate changes mandated by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania State Code.

**Revised School Board Policy 102 – Academic Standards** — This policy revision updates our policy to incorporate changes mandated by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania State Code.

**Revised School Board Policy 105 – Curriculum Standards** — This policy revision updates our policy to incorporate changes mandated by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania State Code.

**Revised School Board Policy 105.1 – Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students** — This policy revision updates our policy to incorporate changes mandated by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania State Code. The policy also reflects recent changes in the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

**Revised School Board Policy 215 – Promotion and Retention** — This policy revision reflects updates in the district since this policy was last revised in 2004.

**Revised School Board Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements** — This policy revision updates our policy to incorporate changes mandated by Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania State Code. The major change is the inclusion of language regarding Keystone Exams – required for graduation beginning with the Class of 2017.

Committee discussed **Project Based Assessments** and the difficulties this will cause for many students across the state. Board members inquired about the need to pass a resolution that can be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding the requirement in Chapter 4 that students must pass the Keystone Algebra, Biology and Literature exams in order to graduation from a public high school in the Commonwealth. Dr. Weitzel will draft a Board Resolution for Board members to consider.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting is November 12, 2014.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Dr. David Bolton, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education