



# EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2022

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

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Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Randall Peach, Carolyn Podgorski (absent), Thomas Wallace, Carol Hample (alt.)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sherry Krial, PD/Tech Supervisor (absent)

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator (absent)

## Agenda

1. Readington Schools Published in book: [Teaching Towards Green Schools](#) Dr. Hart shared that Readington Schools was mentioned in this new book which highlights the district's commitment to sustainability practices. The district purchased several copies of the book if any Board Members would like to borrow them.

Dr. Hart also shared that although there hasn't been a formal announcement yet, Sustainable Jersey has awarded all 4 Readington Schools the Silver award with WHS also receiving Digital Star status. Press and formal acknowledgement to come.

2. Curriculum Revisions - The Committee reviewed, provided feedback, and ultimately approved the following:
  - a. Grade 5 Honors/Advanced 6th Math  
There is now a new progression of math that requires revision to the following: Grade 5 Honors/Advanced 6th.

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| The old advanced progression was:<br>Adv. 4th= all of 4th and half of 5th<br>Adv. 5th= finish 5th and all of 6th<br>Adv. 6th= all of 7th<br>Adv. 7th= all of 8th<br>Adv. 8= Alg. I | The new progression is:<br>(Adv. Math now begins in 6th)<br>Adv. 6th= all of 6th and half of 7th<br>Adv. 7th= finish 7th and all of 8th<br>Adv. 8th= Alg. I |
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- b. Grade 6-8 Science

Updates include 8.2 Design Thinking (now included with the Engineering standards) Career Ready, Career Awareness, Life Literacies, and Computer Science.

Science standard ESS3-5: Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused climate change over the past century.

- c. Music K-2
- d. Music 3-5
- e. Music 6-8

Music- The introduction, Goals (standards), Career Readiness, Interdisciplinary Connections, and Computer Science sections were updated to reflect the new 2020 standards. Activities related to Holocaust and Amistad in Grades K-5 were identified and Holocaust, Amistad, LGBTQ and Disabilities laws were identified in Grades 6-8. Members of the committee asked for details regarding how certain laws/regulatory requirements like Holocaust, Amistad, LGBTQ, and contributions of those with disabilities would be infused. District administration provided examples of individuals who could be discussed in the arts curriculum as contributors to the arts who also identified as members of underrepresented groups.

- f. Dance 6-8
- g. Theater 6-8

Dance and Theater are addressed after school, but we are required by the state to have a formal curriculum for each of them. All arts disciplines must be made available to middle-level students, but they can choose what to participate in.

- h. Visual Arts K-2
- i. Visual Arts 3-5
- j. Visual Arts 6-8

Visual Arts- The Introduction, Goals (standards), Career Readiness, Interdisciplinary Connections, and Computer Science sections were updated to reflect the new 2020 standards. There were changes to the Understandings and Essential Questions. Activities related to Holocaust and Amistad in Grades K-5 were identified and Holocaust, Amistad, LGBTQ and Disabilities laws were identified in Grades 6-8.

- k. Computer Science Grade 6 - This is a new curriculum to meet the new NJSLS for Computer Science.
- l. Health Grades K-2 (reviewed in committee, will come before Board for approval in October)
- m. Health Grades 3-5 (reviewed in committee, will come before Board for approval in October)
- n. Health Grades 6-8 is still being written.

Health- A parent information night has been scheduled for September 29 at 6:30pm to discuss the new Health Curriculum. A consultant from the organization Answer out of Rutgers University will be giving a presentation. The presentation will be recorded and posted on the district website for those unavailable to attend.

- o. Social Studies Grade K
- p. Social Studies Grade 1
- q. Social Studies Grade 2
- r. Social Studies Grade 3

- s. Social Studies Grade 4
- t. Social Studies Grade 5
- u. Social Studies Grade 6
- v. Social Studies Grade 7
- w. Social Studies Grade 8

Social Studies Grade K-7 -These documents are entirely new due to the changes required by the new social studies standards that will take effect in September. There was a specific topic in the World Religions unit that was discussed and district administration made some adjustments based on suggestions.

Social Studies Grade 8 - The Introduction, Pacing Guide, Goals (standards), Career Readiness, Interdisciplinary Connections, and Computer Science sections were updated to reflect the new 2020 standards. Activities related to Holocaust and Amistad laws were identified.

- x. Civics Grade 8 - This is a new curriculum to meet the new NJSLs for Civics. It will be an encore class for 2 marking periods. The committee asked questions regarding some of the language used when promoting students to select a side of a topic to write about, again suggestions were considered and some parts of the curriculum revised.

- y. ELA Grade K
- z. ELA Grade 1
- aa. ELA Grade 2
- bb. ELA Grade 3
- cc. ELA Grade 4
- dd. ELA Grade 5
- ee. ELA Grade 6
- ff. ELA Grade 7
- gg. ELA Grade 8

ELA Grades K-3, Grade 5, and Grade 8:

The introduction, interdisciplinary connections, Computer Science connections, and Career Ready connections were revised to reflect the new standards being implemented in September.

ELA Grade 4:

The introduction, interdisciplinary connections, Computer Science connections, and Career Ready connections were revised to reflect the new standards being implemented in September. The reading and writing history units were removed due to the new social studies standards. The American Revolution is now being taught in 8th grade. These units were taught as part of social studies and so required only the addition of a few teaching points to the unit on feature articles.

ELA Grade 6:

The introduction, interdisciplinary connections, Computer Science connections, and Career Ready connections were revised to reflect the new standards being implemented in September. Teaching points were added to the reading units Deepening Thinking About Social Issues Through Historical Fiction and A Deep Study of Character to reflect new teaching resources purchased by the district.

- 3. Mentoring Plan - The District is required to have a mentoring plan to provide novice teachers with the assistance needed to ensure their successful entry into the teaching profession.

4. Professional Development Plan - The District is required to submit a Professional Development Plan. This plan weaves the Strategic Plan, District Goal and School Goals into each professional development initiative.
5. Field Trips 2022-2023 (The committee did not have time to discuss this agenda item, so it was tabled until next Ed/Tech meeting)
6. Unfinished Business: The Policy Committee reviewed the Textbooks and Resource Materials policies at the request of this committee to clarify why some texts come before Ed/Tech for review and others do not. The policies state that textbooks and texts referenced in Curriculum are approved by the Board of Ed while Resource Materials such as classroom libraries, book rooms, and school libraries are approved by School Administrators. Going forward Resource Materials will not be included on Ed/Tech agendas as had been the practice, which will bring us in alignment to our policies. Parents will continue to have the option to opt out of specific Resource Materials, as has always been the protocol. The policy committee also discussed the Pupil Grievance policy as a method to revisit certain materials.
7. Agenda items: curriculum items
8. Next Meeting: Scheduled for Sept 8@ 8:30am.