

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2018**

The June 14, 2018 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Neville 6:00 PM.

**Present:** Tim Neville, Sarah Hernandez and Ashley Depeau  
**Absent:** Sarah Hernandez  
**Also Present:** Michelle Middleton, Brian Zawodniak and Charlotte Riley (arrived at 6:20 PM)  
**Audience:** None

**TAG Overview**

Mr. Zawodniak provided the committee members with an overview of the TAG program, including the number of students served, entrance criteria, and curriculum. Although the original target of the program was to serve eight students per grade level for a total of twenty-four students, the program currently serves ten students per grade level for a total of thirty students. The entrance requirements used to include a cognitive abilities test named the CoGat, but that has not been used for the past few years.

Mr. Zawodniak explained that the qualities necessary for success in the program are commitment to task, creativity, and enthusiasm, which are not assessed on such a test. A recommendation sheet is submitted by Grade 5 teachers and students are interviewed during the first couple of weeks of Grade 6; TAG in Grade 6 does not begin until October to allow students some time to adapt to middle school. While grades can be an indicator, the most important question posed to Grade 5 teachers is can the student handle a pull-out program and still handle the academics they are missing?

Committee members asked what percentage of students were accepted to the program. That number changes yearly because the ten spots remain the same for Grade 6, but the number of recommendations may vary. Ms. Middleton explained there are sixteen applications for ten spots. If a student drops after Grade 6, their seat is backfilled. The curriculum for the program is based around academic competitions, specifically SeaPerch for Grade 6 and History Day for Grades 7 and 8.

Mr. Zawodniak commented that most of the TAG programs that were visited during the development of Enfield's program were based around academic competitions as well. He explained that SeaPerch is an underwater robot that maneuvers through an obstacle course in the pool. An example of the robot was shown to the committee.

Committee members asked on average what percentage of TAG students advance to the national competitions; approximately 25-30% of these students advance to nationals. Mr. Zawodniak explained that the History Day competition in Connecticut is extremely competitive. He holds four to five Saturday workshop sessions (11:00-4:00) to help his students prepare. It was explained that SeaPerch holds some logistical challenges, most notably the need for two lifeguards on duty for the pool practice sessions. He is considering supplementing the Grade 6 experience with participation in Future City (the committee was provided with a brief description in their packets).

Committee members asked how many times students meet weekly. A sample schedule was shared, and it was explained that ideally it would be four times a week, but that does not always work. There is some flexibility if a student needs to attend the content area class at that time, so they do not miss other important activities, such as an assessment or a lab. The schedule is staggered so the student is not always missing the same class.

Committee members asked if the program could be expanded, what would it look like? The answer was it would still be based around academic competitions but have more staff to allow more students to be served. The program would remain a project-based learning environment, but additional competitions would be added.

Committee members recommended that some other TAG programs be visited to get some ideas of how the program could be expanded/enhanced. They would also like to explore ways for more students to enter the program in Grades 7 and 8. Committee members asked Mr. Zawodniak to create a mission statement for the program along with a list of student outcomes and skills developed through participation.

Mr. Zawodniak will revisit the committee in the fall with the requested information and a vision of what expansion would look like.

**Items from the Table** - None

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton  
Chief Academic Officer