

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2020**

The October 15, 2020 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. LeBlanc 5:31 PM.

Present: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar and Joyce Hall
Absent: None
Also Present: Meghann Burr, Erin Clark and Michelle Middleton

Social and Civic Expectations:

Ms. Burr and Ms. Clark attended the meeting to discuss the pilot of the Social and Civics Expectations units that were written this summer. Ms. Burr explained that this work is being done at JFK and EHS. The social and civics expectations grew out of the NEASC work that was done at EHS a few years ago. Ms. Clark explained that five years ago when the two high schools merged work was done to identify social and civic expectations. This was done with input from the school community: parents, students, and teachers. The NEASC feedback from their visit a couple of years ago was that we needed to better align our common values with teaching and learning. The work around the social and civics expectations also fits with the work of Enfield High School's Equity team. The department coordinators helped expand this work and bring it to the JFK, as well, which allows students in Grades 6-11 to experience these lessons. Part of the work being done in these lessons is teaching students the skill of civil discourse; explicitly teaching active listening and how to respectfully disagree with each other.

We wanted to begin embedding lessons that align with the social and civic expectations into already existing curricular documents. A natural fit was looking at courses within the humanities department. We decided to begin with English and social studies courses. Over the summer an English and a social studies teacher from each grade level/course collaborated on the creation of a mini-unit, five lessons, that would be taught at the beginning of the year/course. These were five different lessons for each course, but there was an intersection of the work being done. The summer work began with a whole team meeting together and outlining common unit goals and expectations for the whole group. This is a pilot year, so the curriculum writers were expected to use these lessons with their students. These lessons were optional for the remaining teachers at the grade level, but many opted to use them as well.

After the lesson were completed, an anonymous electronic survey was given to students. We received 841 responses to this student survey, with an overwhelming majority of students agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements. These responses showed that students found these lessons to be a positive experience. The anecdotal feedback gathered from teachers was positive as well.

For our next steps, we will work this summer to refine the lessons that were already created based on teacher feedback. We will also start expanding this work by including world language classes. We are also asking the teachers who are piloting this work to think where these concepts and standards organically can fit into our existing curriculum documents. A committee member asked how we fit this work into an already existing course and get through the entire curriculum. It was stated that looking for intersections in our curriculum and aligning this work with what is being taught will help with that. The committee member then asked if Ms. Burr and Ms. Clark could show an example of a lesson so they could get a better understanding of the work. They will attend our November meeting and bring a lesson.

Spring AP Results:

Ms. Middleton shared the AP results from the spring of 2020. The chart compared EHS scores from the 2019-2020 school year to those of Connecticut in the same year, as well as EHS scores from the 2018-2019 school year. Out of the seventeen tested courses, eleven saw an increase in scores of 3 or higher from the 2018-2019 school year. Also, even with the pandemic and fully distance learning in the spring of 2020, 91% of possible AP exams were taken. A committee member asked how many seniors took an AP exam. Ms. Middleton will have that information for the November meeting.

Items from the Table:

The next meeting will be held on November 19th.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer