



Portland Public Schools

BOE Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

January 17, 2024 @ 3:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held virtually on Google Meet.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:35pm.

Committee members in attendance: Stacey Benham, Laurel Steinhauser, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Eric Martin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Britton, PHS Principal Kate Lawson, PHS Math Teacher Krista Larson, and PHS English Teacher Rob Jones.

Agenda was modified to address PHS English 12 Electives Proposal as the first item of business, and PHS Math Course Proposal as the second item of business.

II. PHS English 12 Electives Proposal

PHS English Teacher Rob Jones walked Committee members through a proposal to reduce English 12 (non-honors only) from a full year course to a half year course, allowing students more voice and choice in selecting an elective English course for their second semester of their senior year. The Committee supported the proposal and it will be brought to the full Board.

III. PHS Math Course Proposal

PHS Math Teacher Krista Larson walked Committee members through a proposal to add a new pathways program for math instruction for a small number of students whose IEPs indicate they would benefit from the program. These courses would be co-taught by a math and special education teacher and would be offered as needed and in a manner that wouldn't disrupt math course offerings or special education services to the rest of the student body. The Committee supported the proposal and it will be brought to the full Board.

IV. PHS Graduation Requirements Change Proposal

PHS Principal Kate Lawson presented the Committee with a proposal to modify graduation requirements. The proposed changes include: 1. Elimination of the Capstone requirement, in response to the change in state requirements. The Capstone will still be offered as an elective. 2. Reduction of World Language requirement from 2 credits to 1 credit. Students who are motivated to continue their foreign language studies will do so with or without the requirement, but this will open up other options for students who have different interests and needs. 3. The addition of .5 credit of Financial Literacy. The Committee supported these changes and recommended the proposal be brought to the Policy Committee for consideration before it goes to a full Board discussion.

V. K-3 Literacy Update

Eric gave a brief update on the district's plan to comply with the state's new K-3 literacy legislation. Given the list of districts who just received waivers from the state for their current literacy programs, Eric and Charles have made the decision to pause the district's efforts to pilot new curriculum and believe that the curriculum currently in use in Portland will shortly be approved by CSDE.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2023

Submitted by,
[Laurel Steinhauser](#)