



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Kristin Fox
BERNARDS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
101 PEACHTREE ROAD | BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920

kfox@bernardsboe.com
WWW.BERNARDSBOE.COM
(908) 204-2600 ext 118

Curriculum Committee Agenda
December 1, 2023 9:00 - 11:00 am
BOE Conference Room

Administrators in Attendance: Kirstin Fox, Jean O’Connell, Grant Kolmer, Michael Fackelman, Stephanie Orr, Stephanie Smith, Russ Lazovick, Sean Siet

Board Members in Attendance: Robin McKeon, Jennifer White, Keith Molinari, Timothy Salmon

1. Board Agenda Items

a. Action items to be placed on the next board agenda

- RHS Elective New Course Proposal: [Unified Leadership I and II](#)

“Unified” is an initiative originated by the Special Olympics. It started with Unified Sports, then Unified Clubs, and then Unified Leadership. “Unified” programs are in millions of schools throughout the country. Ridge has Unified Sports and Unified Clubs. The proposal is to offer a Unified Leadership elective at Ridge.

Ms. Orr and Ms. O’Connell explained that the proposed courses would be for approximately 10-12 General Education sophomores through seniors in the first year that would assist Special Education students in courses. Interested GenEd students would select Unified Leadership I when creating their schedules and fill out a questionnaire to match with a Special Education student. For example, a General Education student might push-in to a ceramics class and work with a Special Education student in the class. The special education aide would remain in the classroom to assist, if needed. Unified Leadership II would be an opportunity for the GenEd students that complete the first course to continue with another semester elective.

Ms. Orr explained that the courses would be semester electives, worth 2.5 credits and graded Pass/Fail. Ms. Orr explained that, if approved, curriculum writing over the summer would focus on coursework and reflections that would be required of the GenEd students. A teacher would be assigned to oversee the GenEd students and periodically check-in on coursework and review reflective assignments.

Unified Leadership I would meet half of the career requirement for graduation. Unified Leadership II could be taken for credit in subsequent semesters, but would not fulfill the career graduation requirement.

North Hunterdon and Voorhees run similar programs, and Ms. Orr met with administrators to discuss these programs. The programs started slow but are now one of the popular electives.

Committee recommends approval.

- WAMS Semester Elective New Course Proposal: [Amplify Your Voice in a TED Talk](#)

The administration is working to address an imbalance in our 8th grade elective class sizes over the last few years. First, student selections will be adjusted in the way they indicate their first and second choices. Second, we are looking to offer some different electives that more students will be interested in taking. As a part of the English Language Arts Program Evaluation, a recent student survey revealed that students would like a Creative Writing elective and a Speech/Debate elective. Mr. Hunscher explained that students would choose a topic, perform research, and give a 5-18 TED Talk to the class at the end of the course. There would also be an option to upload a recorded version of a student's TED Talk to the TED Ed Quest Program website, which would be a student's choice and would require parent permission.

Committee recommends approval.

- WAMS Semester Elective New Course Proposal: [Creative Writing: The Author's Studio](#)

Students will begin to craft a prose novel, novel in verse, graphic novel, play, or a creative writing format of their choosing. They will participate in prewriting activities, one on one conferences with the teacher, drafting, group critique workshops, revision, and work towards potential publication.

Committee recommends approval.

b. Items to be listed under "Report on Progress":

- [Honors English 9 Textbook](#) - Foundations of Language & Literature: For Honors and Pre-AP English Course by Shea, Golden and Scholz (publisher: BFW Publishers)

Mr. Hunscher explained that the proposed textbook was budgeted for this current year, but the updated version was

just recently published. The updated text aligns with the Honors-to-AP course pathway, and the publisher is the same as the AP textbook.

The book will be in the Board Office for public review.

2. Discussion Items

a. [Update on District Goals](#)

■ Expanding Dual Enrollment Update

The District currently has 4 Dual Enrollment courses – Tomorrow’s Teachers (through Kean University); Intro to Psychology (through William Paterson University); Honors Accounting; and Honors Financial Literacy (both through RVCC). These courses give the students the option to earn college credits. All Supervisors have been charged with exploring if the district can provide more courses that align with a college institution credit-bearing criteria. Ms. Fox and Mr. Fackelman explained that institutions have different levels of review to qualify for credit – review of course syllabi, resources, and texts, as well as credentials of staff teaching the course at Ridge. Mr. Kolmer and Mr. Hunscher met with mathematics and ELA departments, respectively, at RVCC. Both departments had different course review criteria. For example, for a course at Ridge in the ELA Department to qualify for credit from RVCC, the Ridge course must be taught by a teacher with master’s degree. For mathematics however, the teacher must have taken a course that is higher than the highest course offered at RVCC.

All Supervisors are exploring these potential opportunities.

b. [Science Grades 6-12 Program Evaluation Executive Summary](#)

Mr. Misiak presented the 6-12 Science Program Evaluation. See linked document. More recommendations will be added when the evaluation is finalized.

c. [QUEST WAMS](#) - Grades 6, 7, 8

REACH was the Gifted & Talented program at WAMS, but it was eliminated during budget cuts in 2009. The proposal is to initiate a QUEST program similar to the elementary students for identified, Tier III students. Those students would have 3 of 6 cycle courses be QUEST, and QUEST would be 1 of 2 semester electives in 8th grade. Ms. Fox will bring more details back to the committee in January.

d. [MP 1 Grade Analysis](#)

Ms. Fox reviewed the below chart identifying the number of students getting D’s or E’s in MP1. One Board Member asked

whether we could identify those courses in which multiple students received D's or E's in MP1

MP 1	2023-24		2022-23		2021-22		2020-21		2019-20	
	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses	Students	Courses
D+, D, D-	83	107	101	122	120	156	147	208	109	130
E	31	41	24	35	38	54	49	75	34	41

e. Assessment Schedule - RHS

At the November Curriculum Committee meeting, one Board member asked about multiple tests being scheduled on the same day at Ridge. Ms. Fox provided the following information from the Ridge Student/Parent handbook:

Testing Schedule – Scheduled Classes

Assessments are scheduled multiple days in advance. Students with three (3) or more assessments scheduled on the same day who are seeking flexibility should send one email, using their bernardsboe.com email account, addressed to all assessing teachers and your School Counselor and/or Case Manager at least one school day in advance of the assessment should they have concerns. Teachers should be mindful of students with multiple assessments and exercise flexibility when feasible.

Dr. Lazovick says this communicated to students in numerous ways. This was included in the grade level meetings at the beginning of the year and email reminders as well as from their individual teachers.

One Board member asked whether this is conveyed to middle school students. Ms. Fox explained that it rarely occurs that students in middle school have 3 or more assessments on the same day, because staff members within teams try to coordinate assessment schedules.

3. FTGOTO

**Times are estimates*

Next meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2024 9-11am

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Salmon