



Board of Education COMMITTEE REPORT

August 10, 2023

Policy / Legislative

Curriculum

The Policy/Legislative Committee met on Aug. 2, 2023, to discuss proposed policies regarding weapons, threat-assessment teams, and transgender students, and more.

The Curriculum Committee met on Aug. 7, 2023, to discuss curriculum updates and adopt new textbooks.

- The Committee unanimously approved adding language to Policy 8467 (Weapons) prohibiting law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions from carrying weapons on school grounds or at school-sponsored events they are attending as parents or community members. This amendment was based on guidance from the Piscataway Township Police Department. The revised policy will be placed on the Board agenda.
- The Committee unanimously approved proposed Policy 2419 (School Threat Assessment Teams) for placement on the Board agenda. The policy would implement State law requiring multi-disciplinary teams in each school to identify students who may pose a threat of violence, and to provide resources to support them and maintain a safe school environment. Ms. Corradino sought assurances that these teams would apply appropriate criteria to identify students who do in fact pose a risk. Ms. Smith also encouraged the Administration to monitor the activities of these teams to assure that students are not being singled out unfairly.
- The Committee unanimously approved an update to Policy 5746 (Transgender Students) to be placed on the Board agenda. It would align with State Department of Education guidance on districts' duty of accommodation for transgender students.
- Mr. Rubin briefed the Committee on a recent amendment to the sick leave statute, drastically expanding the list of reasons eligible for use of sick days aside from illness. The Committee shared questions and concerns about the potential effect on absenteeism and future labor negotiations, and urged the Administration to collect data on sick day usage.

Curriculum Design Approval

- Math 1-6 - Rebecca Dayton
K-5 Updates - Go Math, integrations, building blocks, prior knowledge
- Math 7-12 - Frank Wrublevski
Accelerated Math 7 - adjustments for Desmos, assessments, and vertical articulation
Algebra 1 - using Desmos for consistency and alignment to state test questions
AP Precalculus - This is a new course increasing accessibility for students. Resources are the same.
Algebra 2 - aligned with the Geometry textbook
In addition to all courses, writing new district assessments as well.
Topics in Precalculus - Updating the fourth-year elective course to be aligned more closely with a traditional precalculus class.
College Algebra - dual credit course with Middlesex College
Discrete Mathematics - elective course update - management science, growth and symmetry, statistics and probability, and mathematics of social choice
- Visual & Performing Arts - Rebekah Sterlacci
AP Art History - New Course
Middle School Visual Art - New addition of eighth-grade Accelerated Art
MS General Music, MS Choral Music, MS Instrumental Music, Introduction to Animation, Animation 2, Ceramics 3: The Pottery Wheel, Multimedia Printing and Design - all general streamlining, tech and resource updates
- Science K-8 - Dr. Baskerville
Final year of a three-year implementation of the Integrated Curricular Design in eighth-grade science
- Science 9-12 - Jessica Pritchard
AP Physics 1 - Algebra-based and corresponds to one semester of college level physics

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Curriculum (Continued)

- Freshman Seminar - Noel Aprile
Reflecting on teacher and student feedback, increasing diversity and engagement, updating service projects
- World Language & ESL - Glennysa Jurado-Moran
ELLs are now Multi-Lingual Learners
Level 4 of American Sign Language - continuing course sequence
Middle schools compliant with state standards
- Social Studies 9-12 - James Knox
AP African American Studies - The District received a grant to offer the course in the last pilot year and received training for teachers.
World Cultures Honors International Law - focusing on law, government, global philosophy of law, with a Model UN simulation at the end of the year.
Honors US History II/Law & Mock Trial and US History I Update - updated with new standards to be more rigorous
- Language Arts - Janine Albanese & Scott Hood
Grades 4-8 will have Vocabulary Workshop, a formal vocabulary curriculum with pacing guides
Writing Essentials Grades 1-8 - grammar and composition. These are responses to data-driven deficits that were observed.
HS English 1 and 4 Revisions - consistency and horizontal alignment
Creating Common Vocabulary Lists at the HS Level
Contemporary Poetry and Performance - A new Course comes from PHS Poetry club and Poetry Out Loud Competition based on student interest.

- Career & Technical Education - Robyn Kay
Print & Production 2 and 3 updates - aligned to NJ Tech and Ed Standards and integrated across multiple career clusters. New software and equipment is now reflected.
- Health & Physical Education - Dr. Baskerville
K-8 PE - Reviewed and updated resources and pacing where appropriate.

Textbook Adoption

- Gardner's Art Through the Ages 16th Edition - Kleiner
This textbook will be used in the new PHS AP Art History Course. This text is recommended by the College Board and is aligned with the course content and AP exam requirements.
- Vocabulary Workshop - Sadlier
This is a consumable resource for students to support their vocabulary development. It will be the primary resource.