

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19, 2023**

The October 19, 2023, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mrs. Pickett at 5:10 PM.

**Present:** Amanda Pickett and Dr. Gerald Calnen  
**Absent:** Jean Acree  
**Also Present:** Michelle Middleton, Chris Ponte, John Dague, and Erin Clark  
**Audience:** None

**Program of Studies Changes:**

a) AP/UCONN ECE Courses

Mr. Ponte proposed making both AP/UCONN Biology and AP/UCONN Chemistry two credits each. These courses are each two semester college courses. The courses meet daily for the entire year. The courses need to meet daily, so they have enough time in class to meet the UCONN lab credit requirements. Students who successfully complete one of these courses receive eight UCONN credits.

Committee members approved this change.

b) NGSS POS Pathway Revision

Mr. Ponte proposed a change in one of the NGSS Pathways. He explained that Pathway 1 (Honors 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Physics) is a bundled approach to teaching the NGSS standards. Pathway 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science; Integrated Physical Science; Biology; and Earth Science and Astronomy) is a topics approach. We have seen a need to make some revisions to Pathway 1. Some students are struggling with Honors Physics 5230 which is predominantly math application. If they drop this course, to meet the standards in the pathway, they are placed in Integrated Physical Science, which is mostly a ninth-grade course. This switch can also impact a student's transcript trajectory. Mr. Ponte is proposing adding Physics 5231 which will be more conceptual in nature and give students an option while keeping them in the same pathway.

Committee members approved this change.

c) New Concurrent Course Proposals

Through the Dual Credit Expansion Grant, Mr. Dague is looking at expanding our pathways courses. He proposed adding an education pathway with two UCONN ECE courses "If You Love It, Teach It" and "Introduction to Special Education." Students who successfully complete each course would earn three credits at UCONN and one credit at EHS. Because these courses can be taught under multiple certifications, we have not designated a department yet. We would need to do an internal posting to find teachers with the proper qualifications to teach these sections.

A committee member asked if these courses were sustainable outside of the grant. Mr. Dague explained that yes, they are. The grant will help with the start-up costs for texts and other than that there are not many consumable costs associated with these courses.

Mr. Dague then introduced another UCONN ECE course, “Medical Terminology.” Students who successfully complete this course would earn two UCONN credits and one EHS credit. This would fit into our medical pathway with EMT and our new Health Science Courses.

A committee member asked if a course like this is necessary with Biology. It was explained that in our conversations with Asnuntuck they mentioned that students could use a course like this to help with some of the certification courses, such as cosmetology and medical coding.

Mr. Dague also discussed another UCONN ECE course, “Film and Video Editing.” This addition would result in a revision of our Digital Video Production course to include more preproduction aspects in the curriculum. There would be a need for some professional development for the teacher. The course weight would become AP and students who successfully completed the course would receive three UCONN credits and one EHS credit.

Committee members approved all four additions.

d) CCP Digital Photography and Graphic Arts 2

Mr. Dague proposed two additions to our College Career Pathways (CCP) courses with CT State, the Connecticut Community College System. In a CCP pathways course, students who successfully complete the course receive three credits with the CT State system. The first course is Graphic Design and Production 2. Successful students would receive one EHS credit, in addition to their CT State credits. The second proposed course is Digital Photography 2. This course is only for a semester, so students would only earn one-half EHS credit.

The committee approved both courses.

e) Mastery-Based Credit Requirement

Ms. Middleton explained that during the last legislative session, the language regarding the mastery-based credit graduation requirement had changed. The language now states that Boards of Education are allowed to require students to complete such a task as a condition for graduation, but they are not required to do so.

Both Ms. Clark and Ms. Middleton proposed that we eliminate this as a graduation requirement for Enfield Public Schools beginning with the class of 2025. Some of the reasons behind this change include the fact that Enfield High School is working to incorporate performance-based assessments in each class. Many of the skills assessed on the mastery-based credit assessment would be taught and assessed on the performance-based assessments, making it redundant. We feel embedding these skills in performance-based assessments in multiple courses for all students is more meaningful and effective in teaching the skills. Also, the mastery-based credit assessment is completed in junior year when students already have their most rigorous year, which includes SAT, NGSS, AP exams, and college visits. Our mastery-based credit assessment includes a combination of self-directed work and juniors are asked to give up multiple Eagle/mentoring blocks as a part of this process. Using Eagle/mentoring blocks in this way during junior year limits a student’s access to extra help, support, and clubs. Teachers of junior Eagle/mentoring blocks are unable to offer extra help and clubs on the dates devoted to this work, thus taking resources from other students.

A committee member commented that the self-directed nature of this project may make it more difficult for some students who require more staff intervention. A final reason for the change is that beginning with the class of 2027, all students will be required to successfully complete a one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy. It makes sense to

reduce this unnecessary graduation requirement as we add this new mandated requirement for students. This change would impact BOE Policy 6146.

Committee members approved that this change be recommended to the Policy Committee.

**Vision of a Graduate:**

Enfield Public Schools is beginning the process of creating a Vision of a Graduate. This work will involve all stakeholders and align our work PK-12. Ms. Clark and Ms. Middleton shared an overview PowerPoint of what this work is, why we are doing it, and an expected timeline of the work. They explained that all building administrators used an expanded PowerPoint with related activities during the August professional learning with their staff. Ms. Clark explained how the work is similar to the work done at EHS during their NEASC visit in 2018. It was explained that the work is collaborative and involves all stakeholders. The process is very important.

A committee member commented that they are excited for this work and that common language among schools would be appreciated.

**Items from the Table:**

The next curriculum meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton  
Chief Academic Officer