



Board of Education Committee Minutes

NAME OF THE COMMITTEE:	Curriculum and Programs
NAME OF THE CHAIRPERSON:	Ms. Stacey Price
DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF MEETING:	May 9, 2023 at 7pm
BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:	Mrs. Laura Cooper, Mr. Douglas Cusato, Mrs. Kristen Pedersen, and Mrs. Stacey Price
ADMINISTRATORS ATTENDING:	Dr. Mortimer, Ms. Bronwen Calderon

Discussion Items

SUBJECT	WRMS Honors Program
NOTES	● April 2021 agenda ● History ○ Data from other districts discussion ○ Continuation of Algebra 1 in 8th grade ○ Continuation of Math 7 Accelerated Class ● Gender data ● Survey in district data (secondary level) ○ Review of G&T program (6-8) ○ Review of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) ● Gender Issues in Accelerated Courses ○ ELA 8 Accelerated ■ section 1: 4 males, 19 females ■ section 2: 11 males, 13 females ■ with the exception of two sections, <i>all</i> student averages for Marking Period 4 are ***STUDENT INFO***STUDENT INFO ○ Social Studies 8 Accelerated ■ section 1: 5 males, 13 females ■ section 2: 8 males, 12 females ■ <i>all</i> student averages for Marking Period 4 are ***STUDENT INFO

To be given to Board Secretary for distribution to the entire board. Reports will be used as the basis for updating the board and the public at the board meetings.

	○ It is a dated practice, and Dr. Mortimer feels very strongly it needs to end. That's what High School is for. ○ Of the six Pascack Valley districts with middle schools, none have tracking/ability grouping in classes other than Math.
CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	Dr. Mortimer joined us remotely for the discussion of this topic. She explained the perception that the District is discontinuing honors-level instruction in ELA and Social Studies is not entirely accurate. Although we are ending honors levels sections in these two subject areas, the honors-level curriculum will be the new standard curriculum for the entire grade. The end of 8th grade honors courses has been a multi-year initiative that has taken place since the 8th grade moved to middle school. Ability grouping in anything other than math in middle school is a dated practice that is not reflective of what other middle schools in Bergen County are doing. Among the administrative team, conversations with other school districts occurred during this process. In effect, we are raising the rigor of our instruction by making the honors curriculum the default curriculum. We intend to keep accelerated math classes in the middle school; there is no discussion about changing them. We assure parents all students will be appropriately challenged with this new structure. Our advanced students will continue to have access to advanced texts and related programs that are on their reading level and to assignments that challenge them.

SUBJECT	N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7 Parent's Statement of Conflict with Conscience
NOTES	● <i>Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.</i>
	There is a "Families are Similar and Different" unit in our Kindergarten Social Studies curriculum. Part of the instruction involves the teacher reading a book about different types of families, which is part of the NJDOE's diversity mandate. Parents do not have the option of opting out of the diversity mandate; this has been confirmed with the NJDOE. Moreover, the Social Study standards that are featured in this unit (in part) read as follows- ● <i>6.1.2.Civics CM.3: Explain how diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others can contribute to individuals feeling accepted.</i> ● <i>6.1.2.History UP.2: Use evidence to demonstrate how an individual's beliefs, values, and traditions may change and/or reflect more than one culture.</i> Parents do not have the ability to opt-out of Social Studies standards. There are two Health/PE standards in this curriculum: <i>2.1.2.EH.3: Demonstrate self-control in a variety of settings (e.g., classrooms, playgrounds, special programs).</i> <i>2.1.2.EH.4: Demonstrate strategies for managing one's own emotions, thoughts and behaviors.</i> If a parent objects to either of these Health/PE standards, a child can be opted out of them; however, that does not mean the child will not be present when the book is

	read.
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SUBJECT	Violence Data
NOTES	Data from SSDS (Review for Goal 3)
CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	

SUBJECT	WWHS/WRMS US History and World History Textbook Renewal Update
NOTES	• Underway • Committee meeting May 18, 2023 ○ 30 minute remote presentations scheduled for committee • Textbook Evaluation Policy Process
CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	Ms. Calderon will present next month the textbook the team agreed upon.

FYI Items

- **NJSLA testing ending prior to MDW**

Next Meeting: June 6, 2023



Board of Education Committee Minutes

NAME OF THE COMMITTEE:	Curriculum and Programs
NAME OF THE CHAIRPERSON:	Mrs. Stacey Price
DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF MEETING:	June 06, 2023 @ 7pm
BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:	Douglas Cusato, Laura Cooper, Kristen Pedersen, and Stacey Price
ADMINISTRATORS ATTENDING:	Ms. Bronwen Calderon, Mr. Andrew Kramar, Dr. Jill Mortimer (via Google Meet)

Discussion Items

SUBJECT	K-8 Genesis Opt-out Process (with Mr. Kramar)
NOTES	● Review what it looks like in Genesis ○ Parent Access Forms ○ Flags a student who opts-out of a lesson (alert) ○ What happens when a student transfers to WWRSD? ● Instructions with screenshots ● Custom reports can be created (customizable) ○ Daily report generated to all building leaders ○ Individuals can run this same report when needed ● Thrillshare reminders/principal newsletter ○ Building principals will do this
CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS	Committee members requested the process include the High School as well. They were pleased with the work that has been done on this topic.

SUBJECT	Paris Trip with WWHS Approval
NOTES	● “To the Westwood Board of Education and Mr. Frank Connolly, French students recently had the fantastic opportunity to host pen-pals from Montpelier, France. The visit took place from March 21-27, 2023. We are requesting to pay a return visit to our sister school in the south of France at the end of the

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SUBJECT	WWHS and WRMS SS Textbook Adoption
NOTES	● TCI for Grade 8 WRMS Social Studies ○ make 6-8 consistent ○ 6 year licensing (TBD) ● HMH for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade Social Studies CP classes ○ wants to continue with HMH ○ 6 year licensing (approx \$35,000) ● Results (Google Site) ● Survey Results
CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	Committee members are fine with the intended purchases; approval will be on the June 15 BoE agenda.

SUBJECT	Title I Summer Academies for WWHS
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NOTES	● Goal: create a summer academy that provides credit and additional courses to students ● Examples of Sessions we are thinking of: ***ACD***ACD***ACD ***ACD***ACD***ACD***ACD***ACD***ACD ***ACD***ACD***ACD***ACD***ACD
CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	Committee members were pleased to see Guidance programming extend into the summer months.

FYI Items

- Summer G&T work
- Chat GPT and AI concerns

Next Meeting: Have a great summer!