

Region 10 Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Agenda Minutes, Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 4:30 pm
Zoom Conference

Attendance: Howard Thiery, Vonetta Romeo-Rivers, Chris Rau, Scott Ragaglia, Ellie Parente, Ania Stolarz, Scott Savelle, Jesse Darcy, Barbara Angelicola-Manzolli, John Vecchitto

Meeting call to Order: 4:31 pm.

1. Minutes for 6/30/20 and 9/15/20 approved.
2. Chris Rau and Barbara Angelicola-Manzolli introduced 3 college pathway courses for the Lewis S. Mills High School Business Department in partnership with Tunxis Community College: Accounting I, Honors Business Organization and Management, and Honors Personal Finance. Students may earn 3 college credits for each as a college semester. Syllabi from Tunxis were provided. Curriculum for each class is already in place at the high school. Students who attend Tunxis Community College for 2 years can have the credits rollover to the State University system. Both Business Department teachers involved in the teaching of the courses have the required credentials. The Committee passed a motion to approve the partnership for Board review. Howard Thiery will bring the offerings before the entire Board for approval in November. Approval will enable the offerings to enter the upcoming Program of Studies. Vonetta Romeo-Rivers added that the only costs to the Region would come through writing necessary curricula. Region 10 participation is still under review for approval by Tunxis. Approval is anticipated. Currently, other high schools in the region are involved in the Tunxis partnership.
3. Discussion about class rank continued. Chris Rau and Erin Putnam, Director of Guidance, are working on a presentation for the November Curriculum Committee meeting. The presentation will include: 1. perspective about the local environment that shares what other local high schools are doing; college(s) input about not reporting class rank; and a plan for honoring seniors if class rank was eliminated for college reporting. If class rank was eliminated from college reporting, Lewis Mills would still have a “behind the scenes class rank.” The decile system of reporting GPA was discussed as a reporting option. Several Board members aired concerns: Ania Stolarz was concerned about student scholarships tied to class rank; and, Scott Ragaglia was concerned about financial aide to students, the depleting value of removing the ranking (thus, diluting effort), and parental concerns. Howard shared these are classic concerns and discussed how class rank is traditionally driven by the highest achieving students. Chris reminded the Committee of a Civic Action Project from seniors several years ago that requested the removal of class rank because it created conflicts among students. For the presentation administration will bring forward admissions criteria from colleges and will provide statistical breakdown of GPA ranking.
4. A discussion regarding Media Literacy for Region 10 students was requested for the Curriculum Committee agenda. Vonetta Romeo-Rivers said Digital Literacy currently was under review as part of the District’s Technology Plan, especially because of the recent distribution of devices to students in the elementary schools. A presentation addressing Media and Digital Literary for the Committee is tentatively scheduled for January 2021.

4. Next meeting: Tuesday, 11/17/20, 4:30 pm.

5. Motion to Adjourn: 5:46 pm.

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10/14/20 draft