

South *H*untington *U*nion *F*ree *S*chool *D*istrict

Curriculum Council Minutes

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 Meeting

4:30 P.M.

JKAO - Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. John Murphy - Facilitator

Dr. Gayle Steele

Mrs. Linda LaCara

Dr. Jay Corcoran

Mrs. Mari Hahn

Dr. Marlee Rice

Mr. Mitch Levy

Mr. Mitchell Levy


Ms. Sarah Wyhowanec

Ms. Cheryl Irizarry

1) **The Minutes of the 10/26/23 meeting were reviewed and accepted.**

-  **Curriculum Council Minutes 10/26/23**

2) **Update: New Course Ideas Approval**

-  SKM_650i23111714400.pdf
- Plan for PD for Teachers/Introduction to students

Freshman Leadership & Civic Participation - This is a 10 week, every other day course which will be a mandatory requirement for every ninth grader. This course will teach students to become focused on leadership roles and becoming a more active part of the student body.

The Mysteries of History - In this class students will be a modern day detective looking into some of the greatest historical mysteries of all time. Students will research, discuss and investigate historical mysteries and maybe even solve some of history's greatest mysteries!

Conflict and the Course of History - In this class students will discuss turning points of history and the historic changes as a result of conflict and war. This class is perfect for those who are interested in military history and international relations.

College Writing - One of the things we are looking at is College Writing as an elective course because all students have to do a college essay. This is a course that would be mandatory for Seniors if they did not do their Junior college mandated writing assignment in 11th grade. Every college, especially the ones

that have waived the ACT and SAT, rely more on the college writing process because they do not have the standardized scores to go with acceptance.

Business Writing - A lot of students go into the Business field for their post-secondary degrees. There is a difference between how we write an essay as opposed to a business letter. Half the course focuses on English and the other half focuses on the writing skill and how it is different in the business world. This course is open to all grades. You can take the course in ninth grade as an elective or senior year you can take both half year electives to satisfy your Senior year English credit.

Spanish for Translation and Interpretation - We have a lot of students that as they segway out of ENL we utilize them for translation services. The students will learn about the different verbiage we use in conversational language compared with verbiage used in court, doctors offices, etc. This is a full year course. Prerequisites are AP Spanish or HLA IV English 11.

Creative Writing in Spanish - We focus so much on speaking another language, but we do not focus on writing another language. This course will give the students an opportunity to develop their writing skills in Spanish by means of self-expression. This is an advanced level course. Prerequisites: Spanish Experience 3 or Home Language Arts 4.

Introduction to Italian - What we find is a student fulfills their language credit in Italian by 10th grade, especially if they are in advanced language. This course introduces the fundamentals of speaking, listening, reading and writing in Italian. Students will complete the NYS LOTE curriculum, as it is designed for students with no prior experience in the target language. This will be a half-year course.

Geometry Concepts - This class is for a student that would like to continue with high level math credits but are not worried about taking the Regents exam. It is a non-Regents course. This class is for our students who have their credits for math and Algebra Regents but want to continue getting the higher level skill set in the higher level math courses. The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and expand students' geometric experiences from the middle grades by introducing Next Generation Geometry standards. This course does not require a Regents exam and is an excellent option for high school students who completed the Algebra 1 coursework but are not ready to move ahead into the Geometry Regents course. Prerequisites: Completion of course & Regents in Algebra 1.

Zoology - is a half-year course that will emphasize the interrelationships of all life forms and the common life processes. This course is an introduction to various invertebrates and vertebrates. Prerequisites: Living Environment, Earth Science and Chemistry.

Jewelry and Craft Design - This is a revamped course offering from years ago. The course will focus on jewelry making, design implementation and other elements of physical arts. This will be a half year course. Prerequisites: Studio in Art/Studio in Crafts.

3) **AI Utilization in the Classroom [Clrizarry]**

- Tools that are available
 - ■ South Huntington UFSD Mail - Fwd_ Diffit pricing for your sc...
- [Ways to incorporate into instruction](#)

Last month we spoke about the Plagiarism Policy and it being something we have to encompass and utilize. The bigger questions were how do we start to learn it, encompass and utilize it in a positive fashion while being sure we are teaching students the right way and all grades are using the policy appropriately. Marlee, Cheryl and Sarah gave an update on the topic. Marlee said teachers have been asking since the beginning of the year to use AI ChatGPT tools with their students. Right now everything is blocked and Chat only allows students ages 13-18 to use Chat with parental permission. Google Bar is 18 plus. Teachers would like to introduce this to their students but right now we are limited. Students are additionally asking for the ability to use AI in a proper way, not in plagiarism form, and we feel we need to help students in this endeavor since AI is here to stay. In August about 1,000 students and parents were surveyed regarding AI. Four out of ten parents knew nothing about AI but are open with the subject. Fifty percent of the parents said they see good and would welcome AI even with the risk. Parents would rather have our kids using AI now because the benefits outweigh the risks. 72 percent of the students surveyed felt AI would be helpful but 44 percent said they do not have any guidance. We want to get support and training from our teachers to roll out to the students. The tool we would like to propose is called Diffit. It allows for differentiated instructions for all grade levels. There are a variety of resources from Diffit and it has a good amount of different languages. Obviously there are a bunch of companies out there that offer different packages. We did look at how Diffit compares to others. We did look at Alamanack but they were not helpful with information or pricing. LogicWing was wowed by Diffit in the fact that it integrates with Google which is a plus since we are a Google school and their price was fair. \$2,310 would be the price per school for a one year subscription. We need site licenses to cover all teachers in the buildings (7). The plan would be, if approved, Cheryl and Sarah would write curriculum and roll-it out to the teachers together. We will put the Plagiarism Policy on the shelf until we get more insight on AI.

4) **Elementary ELA Programs (K-6) Sales Presentations**

- Benchmark Education
- SAVVAS - myView/my Perspectives
- HMH - Into Reading
- Amplify - CKLA

We mentioned at our last presentation that we were looking at four different programs. We have narrowed it down to two. We will use SAVVAS - My View - K-5 and My Perspectives K-6. We did not choose Benchmark because they did not have a sixth grade component to measure what we were doing in K-5.

Amplify was not totally aligned with the standards and wanted to charge us a large amount of money for a pilot. We were looking for programs that were aligned with the K-6 which would be available to us in Spanish. Both programs have to address the needs that we have for our kids and align with the science of reading which is a heavy component in phonics. The plan is to start piloting with HMH when we return from Christmas. By mid Winter we will move back to SAVVAS so by Spring we will come back to the Curriculum Council with the program we choose. We met with Mike today regarding the budget and we are looking for ways to offset the costs to the district. Teachers are excited to be part of the program and we will have feedback by the end of April.

5) **Elementary Report Card Parent Guide**

We are waiting for the Elementary Report Card Parent Guide as it is in the process of being translated into Spanish. We have a guide explaining to parents some of the highlights of the new report card and making it as clear as possible that grades are specific to the marking period because sometimes parents will be upset if their child got a four for one marking period and then a three, but we explain to them as we move forward through the curriculum things get a bit more challenging. The guide outlines what it means for both the academic standard performance key and academic success. Marlee made a mark-up of what the actual report card would look like and highlighted certain areas so parents know where to go. Conferences are coming up and we will have the guides available at conferences in case any parents have questions.