CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING   **Monday**
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION   **February 9, 2009**

A meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education Curriculum Committee was held on Monday, February 9, 2009 in the third floor conference room at the Board of Education, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108.

PRESENT   Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Chair

ALSO PRESENT   Dorese Roberts, Committee Member
                             Marcus Oladell IV, Committee Member
                             Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent
                             Marcia Huddy, Secondary Curriculum Supervisor
                             Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine Arts

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien.

Motion:
By Ms. Dorese Roberts
To approve the minutes of the December 2, 2008 Curriculum Committee Meeting
Seconded by Marcus C. Oladell, IV

Correspondence: None

Mr. Emil Kopcha presented two proposals to change the existing courses Music Theory and Art Studio/Portfolio Class at East Hartford High School to AP Music Theory and AP Art Studio/Portfolio Class. These courses are intended for students who plan to go into the field of music and art. It gives them a chance to build their portfolios. If the classes are brought to an AP level, they will have these rigorous courses on their transcripts and if they take the AP exam, they may be eligible for college credit. Ideally, Mr. Kopcha would like to send two teachers to AP professional development this summer however the course may be considered an AP course by tweaking the syllabus and getting approval from the College Board. Committee members suggested that due to the budget restraints at this time, it should be presented to the full board by getting the course approved by the College Board without any cost to the district. They also suggested that these courses should be offered as AP courses and regular courses to students in the field of study so that students are not intimidated by the AP status.

Motion: by Dorese Roberts
To present to full board the course proposal for AP Music Theory
Seconded by Marcus C. Oladell IV.
Motion unanimously approved.

Motion: by Dorese Roberts
To present to full board the course proposal for AP Art Studio/Portfolio Class
Seconded by Marcus C. Oladell IV.
Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Kopcha spoke about the "Summer Arts Academy" that is run every summer at East Hartford Middle School for grades two through eight. It is a four week enrichment program which includes art, drama, music, Spanish and French and more. The cost of the program is to pay stipends for coordinators and to pay teachers. Parents pay a $25 fee for the program to offset the cost of supplies and refreshments. Due to budget restraints, the committee feels the program may not be funded by the board. Mr. Kopcha will look into grant funding for the program.

Marcia Huddy presented an informational report on work that has been done to change the program of studies at East Hartford Middle School. She has worked with Elliot Merenbloom recently and had several sample schedules for the committee. The redesign is meant to tweak schedules to meet student needs. The scheduling as it is now doesn't leave time for electives for students who need support in reading, math or language arts. The proposals ranged from single subject teams to block scheduling. Ms. Huddy will work with staff at the middle school and department heads in the near future.

Ms. Huddy also presented three proposals for student planners. The proposals were from Premier Agenda, The Student Planner and School Datebooks. The costs range from $13,000 to $9,000 for elementary through grade 10. When principals were polled, they said that the agendas were a very useful tool. The agendas are a good communication tool between the teacher and parents. The committee said that due to budget restraints, only the elementary agendas should be proposed. Ms. Huddy will present the costs of the elementary agendas at the next meeting.

Dorese Roberts moved to adjourn meeting
Seconded by Mr. Oldaell
Motion Unanimously Approved
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Burnham