

**BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Curriculum Committee Meeting**  
**May 10, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

Attendance: Mr. Steven Jenkins, Mrs. Kari Sassu, Chair

Also in Attendance: Dr. Erin McGurk, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction;  
Eileen Eustis, BHS Principal

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

**II. Berlin High School Exams:** Mrs. Eustis presented an overview of the current structure under which midterm and final exams are administered. She described some of the challenges of the current model, including how the heavy weight of exams negatively impacts students' final grades and the loss of instructional time with scheduled exam days. The proposed change will create more flexibility for teachers to determine the type of final assessment, opening the door for teachers to use projects and other types of assessments rather than solely paper and pencil tests. Students will continue to have the opportunity to have cumulative, summative exams in a number of courses.

**III. New CSDE Mandated Social Studies Course:** Dr. McGurk distributed a handout describing the new course that districts will be required to offer beginning in the 2022-23 school year. The African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course provides all Connecticut's high school students an exciting opportunity to understand the scope of African American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino contributions to United States history, society, economy, and culture. The high school has already identified several teachers who are interested in serving as instructors for the course. The curriculum for this course has not yet been released by SERC. Once it is released, we will be able to provide the committee with additional information. SERC will also provide professional development to course instructors.

**IV. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. McGurk, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction