

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee Meeting
October 12, 2021
MINUTES

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

Also in Attendance: Dr. Erin McGurk, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Eileen Eustis, BHS Principal; Mrs. Patricia Pires, Director of School Counseling

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Brief Update on Anticipated Changes in Berlin High School Program of Studies

Mrs. Eustis presented a brief overview of potential changes in the BHS Program of Studies for 2022-23. The high school anticipates offering a new course in Finance and Investments, as well as the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies course previously discussed by the Committee. Both courses will be electives. A full overview of the proposed changes will be made to the Curriculum Committee in November.

III. Advanced Placement Testing

Mrs. Pires presented a report on Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Participation. The percentage of students participating in AP exams has dropped from 94% in 2018 to 71% in 2021. In both 2020 and 2021, impacts to the school schedule due to COVID-19 may have impacted student participation. Mrs. Pires and Mrs. Eustis discussed possible options to increase participation, including district funding for AP exams. Currently, students from low income families may qualify for fee waivers. The cost for students who do not qualify for waivers and who may take multiple exams can be a barrier to participation. As seven of the BHS courses are offered as AP/UCONN Early College Experience (ECE) courses, families may also be paying the cost of the associated UCONN credits. Further discussion on a proposal for district funding will take place during the budget process.

IV. District Continuous Improvement Plan

Dr. McGurk presented a brief overview of the District Continuous Improvement Plan for 2021-23, and explained the changes to the structure of the plan. This year's plan includes sections focused on improvements in teaching and learning, and also includes, for the first time, objectives for certain departments and Central Office operations. The Committee requested that the language of one action/strategy be modified to bring it into closer alignment with the goals for the Equity and Social Justice Committee that were discussed at the September Board of Education meeting.

V. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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