



Twinsburg City School District
Curriculum/Technology Committee Meeting
October 19, 2020 6:00-7:30 PM
Virtually via Google Meet



Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/nsg-vpti-wfx

1. Welcome and updates, **Jennifer Farthing**, Director of Curriculum
2. Role of the District Curriculum/Technology Committee, **Jennifer Farthing**, Director of Curriculum
 - A sub-committee of the BOE consisting of parents, teachers, BOE members, community members, and administration
 - Evaluated and piloted materials are presented; once approved, they are recommended to the Board for final approval, followed by professional development for teachers and implementation
 - Meetings are held four times during the year
 - Materials are available for preview at the Board of Education prior to the meeting
3. District Curriculum Updates:
 - We are running two parallel programs right now – On Campus and Virtual Academy; safety is the #1 priority
 - Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) – being modified and we will be using the Strategic Plan for reporting
 - The Strategic Plan was presented at the October 7th Board of Education Meeting (presentation is available on the website) and includes 6 goal areas: 21st Century Teaching and Learning; Communications; Culture and Climate; Financial; Facilities; and Safety
 - National Assessment Day – 10th and 11th graders took the Pre-ACT and PSAT, respectively, on October 14.
 - Chromebooks have been deployed across the district in PK-12 in an acceleration of initial roll out plan
 - Summer Skills Camp – 3 week program focused on reading and some math; we were able to use Federal Dollars from the CARES funding
 - There will be an increased focus on equity, making sure all students are being given equitable opportunities, and are represented in what we do.
 - Science of Reading – received a grant to work with University of Akron students to focus in the lower elementary grades on the actual brain research behind teaching someone to read; more details to come.
4. Adoption of *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed for English 10 by Atlantic, copyright 2012. ISBN: 978-0857897756. **Megan Holzheimer**, English Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
 - Incorporates more female perspectives into our curriculum
 - Will be used as a summer reading option alongside *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
 - Provides another nonfiction option for sophomore students to practice and build skills necessary for English 10-12

The Committee voted unanimously to present title to the Board for approval.

5. Adoption of *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds (written in verse) for English 10 by Antheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, copyright 2017. ISBN: 978-1481438254. **Megan Holzheimer**, English Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
- Focused discussion on problem-solving skills
 - Students will use creative writing styles and choice boards to demonstrate understanding
 - Students will practice using and imitating new forms of diction and syntax to challenge and improve writing skills
 - Focus on free verse writing style, will use in poetry unit

The Committee voted unanimously to present title to the Board for approval.

6. On Hold: Adoption of *Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi for English 10 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, copyright 2020. ISBN: 9780316453691. **Megan Holzheimer**, English Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
- Provides a diverse perspective of United States history that is frequently ignored in textbooks/literature books
 - Information supports the historical context we share with students in American literature so they have a better understanding of the time period in which our authors are/were writing
 - Supports department and district goals of incorporating more inclusive voices into our curriculum
 - Discussion was raised about controversy surrounding the title

The Committee agreed to delay vote until the February meeting in order to give more Committee members the opportunity to read the title prior to voting.

7. Adoption of Social Justice in Literature Course of Study at Twinsburg High School, **Megan Holzheimer**, English Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
- Offered as an elective course for juniors and seniors, may consider making it a required course
 - Establish classroom guidelines and expectations for safe and supportive dialog
 - Reflect on implicit bias and review Social Justice Standards, from the Teaching Tolerance tool
 - Each quarter will consist of activities to Reflect, Resist, Act, Learn, and Read
 - Specific titles will be presented at February meeting

The Committee voted unanimously to present course to the Board for approval.

8. Adoption of Exploration of Black Voices in Literature Course of Study at Twinsburg High School, **Danee Pinckney**, English Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
- Offered as an elective course for juniors and seniors
 - Examines the history and culture of African Americans in the United States beginning with early African literary tradition and onward through the modern African-American experience
 - Course will reflect on the range and variety of writing throughout history and the way literature responds to historical and social events
 - Critical thinking, reading, writing, and oral presentation skills are emphasized
 - Textbook will be presented for approval at the February meeting

The Committee voted unanimously to present course to the Board for approval.

9. Adoption of Integrated Math 3 Course at Twinsburg High School, **Molly Manley**, Math Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)
- Serves as an equivalent course to Algebra 2, meeting graduation requirement
 - Integrates algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, and statistic skills all together to help students connect all math they have learned thus far in their high school careers
 - Aids in understanding and review

The Committee voted unanimously to present course to the Board for approval.

10. Adoption of Algebra Foundations by Elayn Martin-Gay by Savvas, copyright 2017. ISBN: 9780134617794. **Molly Manley**, Math Teacher. (Requires recommendation from the District Curriculum/Technology Committee.)

- Textbook offers useful online components

The Committee voted unanimously to present textbook to the Board for approval.

11. Role of the District Curriculum Supervisor, **Norm Potter**

- The Academy at Twinsburg High School
 - Entire high school is now eligible to participate (average about 300 students per year)
 - Help students be employable, make connections, and figure out a career path (focus on the 3 E's – employment, enrollment, enlistment)
 - Feature Twin Talks, speakers, job fairs, shadowing and internships
 - Focusing this year on how to continue on in today's environment
 - Creating an experience catalog with a variety of speakers and program options
 - Will share the catalog when it is ready to ensure programs are well attended
- Testing
- College and Career
- Teacher training
- Federal grants
- Data analysis

12. Adjourn

A link to the Google Meet recording will be available on the website this week.

Upcoming Meeting: February 1, 2021

Please contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns:
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Thank you for your participation!