

Tolland Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Minutes
May 6, 2021

Members Present: Jacob Marie (Co-Chair), Madhu Renduchintala (Co-Chair), Christine Griffin
Others Present: Dr. Willett (Superintendent of Schools)

Meeting called to order at 3:32 pm

1. Called to order at 3:32
2. Madhu asked why we are going back when we have 5 weeks left to go. Dr Willett stated that it was in the best interest of the school system to go back to as normal as soon as possible and be in a space where it would be next year. Dr Willett said he has been hinting at this for a while and does not like for people to be surprised. We are now at 200 remote learners, possibly dipping below 100. High percentage of staff is vaccinated. Chances of quarantine is lower. If people can go to a bar without a mask, we should be able to have lunch in a cafeteria. 12–15-year-olds will be able to be vaccinated soon. We are moving to the next logical phase and ending the year the way, we want to begin the next. By moving to a more regular day now, it allows us to work out the remaining kinks in preparation of next school year. Griffin expressed the concern of some parents, specifically at the high school, that bringing lunch back could increase their kids being quarantined and missing out on things such as sports. Dr Willet stated that outdoor eating underneath tents is now feasible whereas in the colder months it was not, and kids will be able to be spread out. The exposure would end up being the same as if they were in a classroom. Also mentioned that there will likely not be any remote learning offered by TPS now that it is not required by the state. Jacob commented that he also believes that this is a move in the right direction.
3. Jacob commented that this was one of the best and most useful classes from THS and would like to see it expanded and spoke about having the teacher of that class, Lynn Bridge, come to speak about this to the committee. Madhu mentioned making it mandatory and expressed interest in speaking with Ms. Bridge. Christine commented that it is a tough class and sometimes there are scheduling issues with adding another requirement. Dr. Willet explained that maybe advertising the class more would be better than making it mandatory. Further discussion to follow at the next meeting.
4. Dr Willett contacted the someone at the state and to get a bit more background to to make a compelling narrative for SBAC letter. Waiting to get more information.
5. Dr Willett talked to Jennifer Webster and there will be a math presentation on June 23,2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Madhu Renduchintala