

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Curriculum Committee Special Meeting  
Helen Keller Middle School - Library Learning Commons  
May 14, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: J. Chieda, J. Stinson

Administrators: T. McMorran, S. Pierson Ugol, S. Kaplan, K. Fox Santora

Parent Representatives: G. Goldstein, A. Hauptman, D. Ronen, A. Taylor

Others: J. Parker (ex officio)

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018 Special Joint Meeting of the Easton and Redding Boards of Education Curriculum Committees meeting as submitted. Stinson, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT:

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSES

Dr. Pierson Ugol provided a purpose for the committee meeting: to review and discuss the current math courses and consider eliminating the honors designation from one of the algebra courses. Ms. Dunkerton, HKMS math specialist, provided a handout of middle school math courses with current and proposed course names. She reviewed the content differences in each course. The committee considered a recommendation to change course titles to more accurately describe the course content. The two algebra courses were reviewed and discussed in greater detail. Current algebra and algebra honors includes the same course content. The difference between the two courses is the student academic profile that is recommended for each course. The administration recommended removing the honors designation as it is not attached to a different set of topics or expectations. The process for recommendations for 9th grade math courses and pathways remain the same.

**Motion: move to approve middle school math course title changes and the removal of the honors designation to one algebra course. Parker, Stinson. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Discussion:**

The committee discussed the need for prompt and clear communication with parents regarding this change and administration shared a plan to send a listserv communication in the days ahead and post the communication as well as more detailed course information and math pathways graphic on the HKMS website. Follow up study of the grade 8 to grade 9 math course recommendations pre and post course changes will be reviewed to inform any further revisions to course offerings.

**Approved. Unanimous.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Allison Bonoff, Gregory Lane, Easton: asked if textbooks would remain the same, and if the change would assist in scheduling at the middle school. She asked for summer bridgework to be made available to all students and reinforced the need for follow up data analysis and expressed concern that the change in courses might reduce the level of math challenge for students.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion: move to adjourn the meeting of the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee. Parker, Stinson. Approved. Unanimous.**

J. Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction