

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 15, 2025**

The September 15, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mrs. Acree at 5:00 PM.

Present: Jean Acree, Janet Cushman & Amanda Pickett

Absent: None

Also Present: Michelle Middleton, Chairwoman Charlotte Riley, Chris Ponte, Joel Senez & Dean Gousse

Audience: None

New EHS Course Proposals/Changes:

Mr. Ponte began his presentation explaining that the course proposals he is bringing forward are informed by best available data and are in the best interests of students. The first course being proposed as an addition to the Enfield High School Program of Studies is Algebraic Foundations. This would be a one credit course that could be taken before Algebra I. Our failure rates in Algebra I are high, and the Grade 8 end of the year math diagnostic shows a percentage of students scoring two or more grades below grade level. Some of the benefits of this course are that it would help students build foundational skills and their confidence in mathematics. The one credit in this course would be used towards the students' 4 credits in math graduation requirement. It would also narrow the student ability levels in the Algebra I classes, allowing teachers to differentiate for all the students in their classes. A committee member asked if we are using Building Thinking Classrooms in our math classes. Yes, we are using those strategies in math and science classes at both the middle school and the high school.

Mrs. Pickett made a motion to approve this course, seconded by Mrs. Cushman. The course was unanimously approved.

The second course Mr. Ponte proposed was AP PreCalculus. He explained that the curriculum for our current Honors PreCalculus course is a very close match to that of the AP PreCalculus course. It makes sense to replace the Honors course with the AP one to give students the opportunity to gain college credit. It was also mentioned that the AP PreCalculus data shows a higher percentage of enrollment in underrepresented groups in comparison to other AP offerings.

Mrs. Pickett made a motion to approve this course, seconded by Mrs. Cushman. The course was unanimously approved.

The final course Mr. Ponte proposed was AP Anatomy and Physiology. This is a similar situation to the PreCalculus offerings in that our Honors Anatomy and Physiology curriculum is very similar to the AP course. This would be another opportunity for students to gain credits.

Mrs. Pickett made a motion to approve this course, seconded by Mrs. Cushman. The course was unanimously approved.

JFK French:

Mr. Senez explained that our Grade 7 and 8 French teacher resigned right before the start of school. We posted for the position, but we did not get any candidates with a French background. We are working to get a long-term substitute through the hiring process. For these two classes (one Grade 7 and one Grade 8), to keep the students with the experience they chose in registering for French, we have contracted with Elevate K-12 to have students in a virtual classroom experience for French at JFK this year. There will be a “live” virtual teacher planning and facilitating lessons. This teacher will also engage with parents through ParentSquare, as well as some opportunities for virtual meetings. The virtual teacher will also be doing the grading of work and entering of grades into PowerSchool. The teacher in the room will be supporting students with managing the online platform, as well as the classroom, and supporting the virtual teacher. Mr. Senez showed a short video explanation of the platform. A letter was sent home to impacted parents from Ms. Brown and Mr. Senez, along with information about Elevate K-12. Mr. Senez explained there are still some technological logistics to be worked out, but they are hoping to be up and running next Monday, September 22. At this point, students are working on lessons in culture. A committee member asked what we will do next year. We explained this is going to be a year-long conversation about what is best for world language at EPS and how to move forward.

Ms. Middleton and Mr. Senez also mentioned that we have a long-term absence in Spanish at EHS. This absence is scheduled to conclude at the end of October. We posted for an LTS but did not get any applicants. For lessons until the teacher returns, Mr. Senez has used the EdGenuity curriculum to create units the students can follow that mirror our curriculum. Students will work on these units asynchronously in class. This will be used until the teacher returns. The committee thanked Mr. Senez for his work on these classes.

Items from the Table:

Ms. Middleton asked if the committee could change their October meeting scheduled for 10/16 since she has a workshop that evening. The committee agreed and decided on 10/23. Ms. Middleton will get the date changed on calendars.

Mrs. Pickett asked if the committee could have an update on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports and our interventions and enrichment. Ms. Middleton will put it on a future agenda.

Mrs. Pickett asked if we could put JFK TAG on a future agenda. It will be put on one.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 5 PM.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman to adjourn the September 15, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction