WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
April 5, 2006  
Curriculum Committee Meeting

The Meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven. The meeting was called to order by Krista Pickering at 6:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:  Krista Pickering, Chair  
Mark Palmieri  
Robert Guthrie

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  Raymond Collins  
George Monahan  
Eric Murillo  
Gerald Calabritto

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:  Chairman, M. Toni Paine  
Howard Horvath

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:  Dr. JoAnn Andrees, Superintendent  
Neil Cavallaro, Assistant Superintendent

Margaret Dolan the Chair person for West Haven High School Curriculum Committee gave an overview and discussed the progress of the committee at West Haven High School. The meeting was turned over to the Curriculum Writers.

Rodney Jackson revised the curriculum for Pre-Algebra. The goal is to increase math preparation for students especially with regard to CAPT. We are working to revise the middle school curriculum. Frank Paolino is the math coordinator and is responsible for this.

Mary Janeczek stated that the same courses are being used now but in September we are trying to have some progress in both levels. There will be a shift of emphasis to graphing and problem solving to help students improve their skills and CAPT scores.

Neil Cavallaro asked if the students coming to high school were more prepared for Algebra since it has been three years since the textbook series has been made.

Mary Janesczek stated yes students are more comfortable with graphing which was one of their weaker skills. Students still need more practice. She referred us to the curriculum description in the pamphlet she handed out.
Nursing Assistant Program
Kathleen Murphy spoke about the Nursing Assistant Program. She discussed the curriculum being offered at the High School. There are two programs being offered. The Nursing Assistant Program and Home Health Care Program. The Nursing Assistant Program will be offered to the seniors first then juniors. They will receive 2.3 credits for this full year course which requires 2 – 3 periods a day 5 days a week. The first half of the year will be for classroom. The second portion of the year is the clinical portion where students provide direct care for the elderly residents of West Haven nursing facilities.

At the end of clinical students are given the state competency evaluation. If they are successful they can register with the State of Connecticut and become certified nursing assistants.

Home Health Care Program
Home Health Care is a one-semester course that is taken concurrently with the Nursing Assistant Program a student must be in grade 11 or 12 to be accepted into this class. Home health care is a rapidly expanding industry. Health care providers strive to reduce health care costs by decreasing the length of stay, patients are being discharged sooner and receiving services as outpatients.

This course meets two days a week. At the completion of this course students are given the state competency evaluation. If they are successful they can register with the State of Connecticut and become Certified Nursing Assistants.

Acting I
Merle Stevens presented for Margaret Maher. There was a need to change the name of course. The course is called Acting I rather than Speech and divided into three parts because students were confused about its intent.

Unit I – Introduction to acting through monologue performance
Unit II – Introduction to scene work
Unit III – Introduction to the art of creating original dramatic monologues and scenes.

Elementary Physical Education
John Capone, Elementary Physical Education Supervisor, introduced Mike Guarino, a Physical Education teacher at Washington School who passed out a revised Elementary Education Curriculum for Physical Education. There followed a discussion of numerous activities and objectives for each grade level.

Krista Pickering asked for a motion to accept each of the curricula and present it to the full Board for its approval.

A motion was made by Mark Palmieri, seconded by Bob Guthrie to recommend to the Board that the following curricula be added to the agenda:
There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Palmieri
Motion seconded by Bob Guthrie

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Marylou Amendola
Board Clerk