The Meeting of the Curriculum Sub-Committee was held at the Blake Building, 25 Ogden Street, West Haven on June 5, 2006. The meeting was called to order by Raymond Collins at 6:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Robert Guthrie (Acting as Chairperson)

PRESENT: Mark Palmieri

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Krista Pickering, Chairman

ABSENT:

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Raymond Collins
George Monahan
Eric Murillo
Gerald A. Calabritto
Howard Horvath Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman, M. Toni Paine
Krista Pickering

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

Bob Guthrie turned the meeting over to Neil Cavallaro as Krista Pickering, Chairman for the Curriculum Committee was absent. He stated that Curriculum Pamphlets on Acting II, III, IV and Freshman Seminar – Mathematics will be made available to all Board members very shortly.

Margaret M. Maher came before the Board to seek approval of Acting II, III and IV for the High School Curriculum. She thanked the Board for their approval on her Acting I Curriculum. She stated she has completed the other three sections and went on to summarize the gist of the whole idea.
Over the course of four years students are introduced to the Connecticut Common Core of learning for theatre. They learn how to critique one another as well as their own works. As the years pass from Acting I to Acting IV the student’s involvement in each of these areas get more sophisticated and demanding. Students are introduced to and hopefully become quite versed in the eight Connecticut Standards of Theatre.

These standards are:

1. Students will create theatre through improvising, writing and refining their own scripts.

2. Students will act by developing, communicating and sustaining characters.

3. Students will design and produce technical elements of theatre through artistic interpretation and exhibition.

4. Students will direct by planning or interpreting works of theatre and by organizing and conducting rehearsals

5. Students will research, evaluate and apply cultural, historical information and make artistic choices.

6. Students will make connections between theatre and other disciplines in everyday life.

7. Students will analyze, critique and construct meanings for theatre

8. Students will demonstrate and understanding of context by analyzing and comparing theatre in various cultures and historical periods.

As the years go by the curriculum becomes more and more complicated and demanding. More is expected of each student as each year goes by. In the beginning it may be a simple monologue the student is learning and by senior year they are involved with Shakespeare and Moliere as well.

Six years ago only one acting course was available to students at West Haven High School and the enrollment averaged between 12 and 15 students. We now offer four courses Acting I through IV and this year alone we turned away 97 interested students. Our department is really growing. We hope in the very near future to add Acting IV back into our course selection. We have had nine students apply to various universities, academies and institutes to pursue careers in the theatre and all nine students were accepted.

Bob Guthrie thanked Margaret Maher on behalf of the Board.
Mary Ellen Lafo addressed the Board to present the freshman seminar Math Curriculum. Freshman Seminar is a new course at West Haven High School this year. It is divided up into the four disciplines Math, Science, Reading and Social Studies. Each discipline meets for one marking period. The focus of the program is to prepare the freshman to take the CAPT Test during sophomore year. We focus on the four strands of the CAPT: Number and Quantity, Algebra and Functions, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics, Probability, and Discrete Math. She attended a workshop regarding this material and it was suggested the course should be called Math Literacy. We spend a lot of time with the students trying to read Math. It is more than just the number you are looking at what are the words that describe the number. We spend a lot of time with how to read the problem and how to interpret it into mathematical equations. Test taking strategies, timing, organizing work etc. is also covered. They found that to cover every single one of the strands equally is not working out the way we had hoped. So we decided to start with the two areas that student’s seem to have the most difficult time with and are exposed to the least in their regular math classes. The two strands are Geometry and Measurement and Probability and Statistics.

The classes are heterogeneously grouped. There are students from a Developmental Math and students from the Geometry Honors Program all in one classroom. This is a new approach. We start the course with a Pre Test and end with a Post Test. The grade at the end of the course is based on the student’s individual growth. This is a very individualized assessment. She stated she has seen growth in the students as the years progress. Each year more topics can be covered due to the math experiences and math courses the students have been through. We have seen real growth so far this year. Every student who is a freshman takes part in this.

Mark Palmieri asked when the CAPT Test is being taken. The response was during the month of March. Mark Palmieri also asked if there is a review time. She stated in the past they have had a three week time frame when you review. One year they did it three weeks before the test. This year we had three separate weeks where we had specific activities within the whole math department.

Bob Guthrie thanked Mary Ellen LaFo on behalf of the Board.

Mark Palmieri recommended to the full Board approval of the curriculum. Robert Guthrie seconded the motion.

Mark Palmieri made a motion to adjourn
Robert Guthrie seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Clerk