

Agawam School Committee
AHS Program of Studies Workshop Minutes
December 13, 2010

Vice Chair, A. Bonavita, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High School library.

Present: L. Galarneau, R. Doering, D. Juzba, K. Mouneimneh, & S. Reed
Dr. Czajkowski, W. Sapelli, Dr. Provost, S. Lemanski, S. Schoenberger, N. Farrell, B. Monahan, J. Barry,
J. Korbut, W. Zaengle, & STCC staff

Absent: R. Cohen

Mr. Bonavita began by stating that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss possible changes to the *2011 – 2012 AHS Program of Studies*. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Czajkowski who introduced the invited guests.

The first item on the agenda was a College Readiness Course Proposal, which would be taught by STCC and Agawam High School faculty. Dr. Czajkowski provided the rationale for this proposed College Readiness Course as well as a plan that included the following:

- Accuplacer Diagnostic Test
- A committee established to study development of a multi-disciplinary college readiness course
- Assessment/Pre & Post Tests

Next, Dr. Czajkowski provided an overview of the College Readiness Course and Christine Tigue from STCC explained the importance of this new proposed course. A question and answer session then took place.

At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to support the College Readiness Course stating it is a great idea.

Next, changes to the 2011-2012 AHS Program of Studies were reviewed. Dr. Czajkowski explained that beginning with the incoming Freshman Class of 2015, students will be required to take 4 years of Mathematics to be in compliance with the Massachusetts Core Standards as required by the Mass. Board of Higher Education. Presently, students only need 3 years of Mathematics to receive a high school diploma. At the conclusion of discussion, Committee members agreed that requiring 4 years of Mathematics is a good idea, which they approve and support.

The next item on the agenda was the review of Technology Education courses as presented by Mr. Steven Lemanski, AHS principal. During his overview, Mr. Lemanski explained how some full year Technology Education courses would be changed to half-year courses, thereby providing students with the opportunity to sample the department's various offerings. Then, each Technology Education instructor related what is offered to students in their individual courses.

A lengthy question and answer session then ensued during which the concept of developing inter-disciplinary Science, Technology, and Math courses (STEM) was discussed and suggestions for collaboration among departments were made.

Next, A. Bonavita reviewed those Technology Education courses that were being increased, reduced, or eliminated.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Lemanski explained that the Yearbook, which is presently an English Department course, is being taught by a Mathematics teacher. He would like to make it an after-school activity thereby freeing time for the Mathematics teacher to instruct more in his subject area. He also reviewed other department course changes and eliminations, as well as new elective courses that will be offered to students.

Dr. Czajkowski said the plan is to place the *2011-2012 AHS Program of Studies* on the January 11, 2011, school committee meeting agenda under New Business with final approval on January 25th under Unfinished Business. Another workshop to review suggested changes will be scheduled prior to the January 25th school committee meeting.

There being no further discussion, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by, K. Mouneimneh, the workshop was adjourned.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1 absent

Time: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexis Ferioli
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & School Committee

Roberta G. Doering, Committee Secretary