

BERLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Student Achievement Committee Meeting
November 25, 2019
MINUTES

Attendance: Mr. Richard Aroian, Chair
Mrs. Jaymee Miller
Mr. Timothy Oakes

Also in Attendance: Mr. Brian Benigni, Superintendent
Dr. Erin McGurk, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Eileen Eustis, Berlin High School Principal

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m., in the Flagship Conference Room at Berlin High School

II. Berlin High School Program of Studies- New courses and updates

Mrs. Eustis shared a document with the committee describing the proposed new courses to be offered at Berlin High School in the 2020-21 Program of Studies. Along with the new courses proposed, she updated the committee on course name changes and courses that will be suspended for the upcoming school year. Highlighted new courses include the expansion of offerings from the School Counseling Department. Beginning next year, the Counseling Department is proposing three courses, each .25 credits, to be offered to freshmen, sophomores and juniors, respectively. These courses will support students in their transition to high school, provide opportunities for personal and career exploration, and prepare for post-secondary goals. Other new courses include a new UCONN ECE Digital Media class, Multivariable Calculus, UCONN ECE Discrete Mathematics, Computer Science Discoveries, Child Development II, Debating Current Events, Human Rights and Social Justice, Psychology Lab, and Transitional Spanish.

Mrs. Eustis and Dr. McGurk proposed the concept of Honors Challenge, to be offered in select courses in our elective areas that are heterogeneously grouped. This opportunity is available to students who have a strong desire to strengthen their depth of knowledge and development of skills in a given course. Students will have options to take on more complex, in-depth exploration of course material through a variety of assignments or assessments, independent projects, co-curricular or experiential activities. Honors Challenge expectations are developed by each elective department for designated courses. Students will earn Honors credit upon successful completion of the Honors Challenge expectations as outlined for each course and successful completion of the course. Committee members reviewed a sample Honor Challenge contract and asked a number of questions about the logistics and process for the further development of this model before implementation in the fall of 2020.

Chair Richard Aroian expressed concern about the timing of the Committee's meeting to review changes in the Program of Studies and suggested that, in the future, proposals for new

courses be reviewed and discussed across the year as proposals for new courses are being formulated.

III. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin K. McGurk, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction