



**BOE/CO
Friday Packet
March 17, 2023**

Upcoming Meeting Dates

3-17-2023 Dr. Zavodjancik Memo re: Modern Math and AP Psychology
Enrollment Changes

3-17-2023 Dr. Zavodjancik Memo re: Textbook Policy Questions



Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Dates **2023**

March 28	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East
April 5	5:00 PM	Finance Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East
April 17	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East
April 19	2:30 PM	Facilities Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East
April 25	7:30 PM	Regular Meeting CO Board Room 501 Kings Hwy East
May 2	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East
May 3	5:00 PM	Finance Committee Superintendent Conference Room 501 Kings Hwy East

Town Budget Meetings:

BoF Budget Vote: Thursday, 3/30/23 7:30 pm

BoE Presentation to RTM: TBD

- RTM Budget Vote: Monday, 5/1/23 8:00 pm



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

James Zavodjancik, Ed.D.

Chief Academic Officer

Phone: 203-255-8390

FAX: 203-255-8273

To: Mr. Michael Testani, Superintendent of Schools

From: James Zavodjancik, Chief Academic Officer

Date: March 17, 2023

Re: Modern Math Curriculum Change and AP Psychology Enrollment Changes

Two changes will occur in our mathematics and social studies departments for the 2023-2024 school year.

Modern Math

During the 2022 curriculum review, *Modern Math* (course number 25555) was introduced as a fourth-year mathematics elective. A full year curriculum was established for this full year course. As the course was implemented during the 22-23 school year, input from mathematics teachers and administrators was that two half year courses would benefit students. Modern Math, for the 23-24 school year, will be split into two half year electives (Modern Math A *and* Modern Math B). The curriculum will be divided accordingly. This change will allow for students at the mid-year point to enroll in the course if schedules permit. If students want to take a full year, they will be able to enroll in both sections. Ultimately, this provides more flexibility for our students.

Psychology

The Social Studies Department's *Psychology* (course number 13410) will allow students in their junior year to enroll in the course (semester course). Currently, only seniors are allowed to enroll. This change will open elective options for our junior students.



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Re: Textbook Policy Questions

The following questions were asked regarding Policy 6161 *Instructional Resources, Equipment, Books and Materials, Textbooks and Workbooks*.

1.) What are neighboring districts' policy approaches on textbooks and trade books?

A review of local Boards of Education Policy 6161 is below. A brief summary is articulated below. Each policy is also linked for full review. No policy below, except for Monroe Public Schools, directly addresses *trade books*.

Board of Education Approval	Delegated to the Superintendent/ District Staff
Greenwich Monroe Ridgefield Trumbull Weston Wilton	Bridgeport (Page 31) Darien New Canaan (page 205 & 233) Westport

[Bridgeport](#) (page 31) – The responsibility of selection is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools

[Darien](#) – The responsibility of reviewing, selecting, and approving instructional materials is delegated to the District Curriculum Leadership Team.

[Greenwich](#) – Textbook adoption requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of Education.

[Monroe](#) – Textbooks are defined as materials used for 50% or more of the information upon which the program of instruction is based. Textbooks are approved by the Board of Education and its Curriculum Committee.

[New Canaan](#) (page 205 & 233) – Delegated to the professional staff working under the direction of administration and Superintendent of Schools.

[Ridgefield](#) – Textbooks are recommended by staff to the Superintendent of Schools who will make recommendations to the Board of Education.

[Trumbull](#) – Board of Education approval of textbooks through the BOE Curriculum Committee and approved by the full board. Textbooks approved are integrated in curriculum guides.

[Westport](#) – The responsibility for selection of instructional resources is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools through the Board of Education

[Weston](#) – Textbooks are recommended by staff and the Board of Education makes the final selection.

[Wilton](#) – Instructional material proposals through the staff to the Superintendent and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

2.) What is the general and approximate number of books in the secondary ELA curriculum?

The numbers below are approximate numbers of books used in the secondary ELA curriculum.

In Middle School, there is a current commitment to one core novel in each grade. These include:

Grade 6: Tuck Everlasting

Grade 7: The Outsiders

Grade 8: Night

Course/Grade	Books in the Current Published Curriculum	“Ancillary” Books integrated in implementation (e.g., book clubs, course paperbacks not in the curriculum documents)
6 th Grade	<p>There is no determined number in the published curriculum.</p> <p><i>Some authors include</i> Doris Lessing, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Billy Collins, Robert Frost, Emily Dickenson, Tony Cade Bambara, Sandra Cisneros, and Jerry Spinelli.</p>	<p>There are 15-20 book club texts from which teachers choose throughout the year.</p>
7 th Grade	<p>There is no determined number in the published curriculum.</p> <p><i>Some authors include:</i> Gish Jen, Alice Munro, Kurt Vonnegut, E.E. Cummings, Langston Hughes, William Carlos Williams, Saki, and Gary Soto.</p>	<p>There are 15-20 book club texts from which teachers choose throughout the year.</p>

Course/Grade	Books in the Current Published Curriculum	“Ancillary” Books integrated in implementation (e.g., book clubs, course paperbacks not in the curriculum documents)
<i>9th Grade</i>	<p>There is no determined number in the published curriculum, but there are approximately 15-18 core texts of which a teacher can select.</p> <p><i>Some authors include:</i> William Shakespeare, Harper Lee, Homer, Paulo Coelho, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Sophocles, and Jamaica Kincaid</p>	<p>There are 40-50 supplemental texts of which teachers can choose.</p>
<i>10th Grade</i>	<p>There is no determined number in the published curriculum, but there are approximately 15-18 core texts of which a teacher can select.</p> <p><i>Some authors include:</i> William Shakespeare, William Golding, Julia Alvarez, Tennessee Williams, Aldous Huxley, John Knowles, and Jane Austen</p>	<p>There are 40-50 supplemental texts of which teachers can choose.</p>
<i>11th & 12th Grades</i>	<p>There are no authors indicated in the grades 11 and 12 curricula.</p> <p>There is no determined number in the published curriculum, but there are approximately 15-18 core texts of which a teacher can select.</p>	<p>There are 40-50 supplemental texts of which teachers can choose.</p>
<i>Elective Courses</i>	<p>There are no authors indicated in the grade, but there are ~7-10 core texts of which teachers can choose.</p>	<p>There are ~20 supplemental texts of which teachers can choose.</p>

3.) Is there any concern regarding state statute?

We do not have concerns regarding the state statutes and believe we are currently in compliance.

Only Monroe defines a textbook as a resource used for 50% or more of the course’s curriculum. This information cannot be found by district staff in any statute. Nonetheless, the following is guidance on textbooks from Attorney Thomas Mooney’s CT School Law Book:

“There is no express requirement that the board of education itself approve textbooks to be used in the schools, and it appears possible that a board of education could delegate such decisions to the superintendent and/or to a committee that it or the superintendent may create. By contrast, the statutes specifically set out the requirement for boards of education action to change textbook. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-229 provides that boards of education may

not change textbooks except by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the board after being given at least one week's written notice.” (Mooney, 2018, p. 135).

Mooney, T. (2018). A practical guide to Connecticut school law (9 ed.). Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

4.) Has the FEA or any teachers weighed in on the proposed policy?

The policy has not been disseminated for broad review to our teachers and faculty. Administrators have had the opportunity to review the proposed policy as it transitioned through the process with the policy committee. As a result, no comments were received on the substantive issues in the proposed policy.