

School Committee Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Minutes

Remote Meeting

May 17, 2021

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DATE: December 15, 2021

TIME: 2:35 PM

Present: Kate Bowen
Meg Moriarty
Andrea Prestwich
Jamal Saeh (left at 3:56 pm)
Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias

Call to order at 3:00 pm

Item of Business: Accelerated geometry program for Grade 8 Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Darias and Director of Mathematics Jonathan Golden presented the Challenger Geometry Program, which is a new middle school program for the 2021-2022 school year. They will present again at the full School Committee meeting on May 25, 2021.

The program will be offered to rising eighth graders, and current eighth graders who will take Algebra 1 or 2 and the accelerated geometry program simultaneously. Over the summer, participating students will be assigned Khan Academy summer work through Google Classroom. An instructor will be assigned to review students' work before the fall start. Throughout the year, Edgenuity, an online honors level course-specific platform, will be used for the geometry course. Students will meet in person with an instructor once per week, after school. Students will take the Geometry final exam. Eighth graders will select Algebra 2 for their ninth-grade math course. Ninth graders will select PreCalculus for their tenth-grade math course. Program costs of approximately \$13,000 will be absorbed by the district. Information sessions will be offered to students with a sign-up deadline of June 11. If there is enough interest, they may offer two sections. Looking long term, the district will address the issue of disproportionate underrepresentation of our Black and Brown students with programming by 2022.

School Committee members thanked Janice and Johnathan for their work in getting this program up and running. Meg suggested incorporating mid-summer feedback to students so students who may need additional support are identified early. Jamal hopes that this is just the start of some long-term math visioning in the district. Kate requested additional information about the Khan Academy programming and urged the district to promote the program dates early and to all families with students of age.

Janice reminded the SC that the high school has a 4 year math requirement for graduation and this does not allow students to skip out of any graduation requirements.

Public Comments:

Kim Edmonds - asked about the level of mastery required by the Khan Academy program; requested more information about the exam; and wondered whether current 8th graders would be in class with current 7th graders who enroll in this program.

Jenn Hynes - asked that the district address plans for students "left behind" who do not test into the accelerated program.

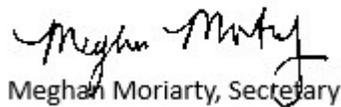
Heather Barr - told the SC her Senior benefitted from the flexibility at the high school to test into math classes that met his/her needs and hopes that this program is an 'interim solution' towards a more robust math curriculum in Belmont Public Schools.

Russell Mann - requested more details about the Khan Academy program and curriculum versus Edgenuity.

Assistant Superintendent Darias and Director of Mathematics Jonathan Golden will take into account the SC feedback and public comments/questions as they prepare a presentation on the Challenger Geometry Program for the full SC on May 25th.

On a motion by Meg Moriarty and seconded by Kate Bowen, the Subcommittee adjourn at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Meghan Moriarty, Secretary