

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA*

(Agenda Subject to Modification in Accordance with Law)

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:30 p.m., Staples High School Cafeteria

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (15 MINUTES)

MINUTES: February 4, 2019

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Proposed Graduation Requirements Commencing with Class of 2023, pages 1-9 | (Encl.) | Dr. Anthony Buono
Mr. James D’Amico |
| 2. Discussion and Vote on Number of Portables and Whether or not to Seek State Reimbursement | | Mr. Mark Mathias |
| 3. Approval of Education Specifications for Modular Classrooms | | Dr. Colleen Palmer |
| 4. FY 2020 Proposed Budget of the Superintendent of Schools | | Dr. Colleen Palmer |
| 5. Modification of Plan for District Facilities Utilization PreK-12 Commencing with the FY 2019-20 School Year | | Mr. Mark Mathias |
| 6. Appointment of Board of Education Member(s) to the Coleytown Middle School Building Committee | | Mr. Mark Mathias |

PRESENTATION

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. School Construction Grant Application Process | Dr. Colleen Palmer |
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UPDATES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Finance and Facilities Committee | Ms. Elaine Whitney
Mr. Neil Phillips |
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ADJOURNMENT

*A 2/3 vote is required to go to executive session, to add a topic to the agenda of a regular meeting, or to start a new topic after 10:30 p.m. The meeting can also be viewed on Cablevision on channel 78; Frontier channel 6021 and by video stream @www.westportps.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WELCOME USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Comment on non-agenda topics will occur during the first 15 minutes *except* when staff or guest presentations are scheduled.
- Board will not engage in dialogue on non-agenda items.
- Public may speak as agenda topics come up for discussion or information.
- Speakers on non-agenda items are limited to 2 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers on agenda items are limited to 3 minutes each, except by prior arrangement with chair.
- Speakers must give name and use microphone.
- Responses to questions may be deferred if answers not immediately available.
- Public comment is normally not invited for topics listed for action after having been publicly discussed at one or more meetings.



STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

70 North Avenue, Westport, Connecticut 06880-2799

JAMES J. D'AMICO
Principal

Phone: 203-341-1201
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TO: Dr. Colleen Palmer
FROM: Mr. James D'Amico
SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements for Class of 2023 Discussion
DATE: January 18, 2019

The topic of changing graduation requirements at Staples High School was brought to the Board of Education during the 2014-2015 school year, as part of the last round of secondary education reforms in the State of Connecticut. Since that time, reform implementation has been delayed and changed, and new state requirements are set to be in place for the Class of 2023.

The highlights of the updated reform are:

- 25 credit minimum
- 9 credit minimum in humanities
- 9 credit minimum in STEM
- 1 credit minimum in Health
- 1 credit minimum in Physical Education
- 1 credit minimum in World Languages
- 1 credit for a Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment Requirement

Some of these new requirements have minimal impact on our current Staples graduation requirement structure, while others, if implemented according to State minimums, would have a major impact on our highly regarded rigorous and comprehensive program.

As our analysis demonstrated in 2015, while we were very concerned that the new requirements may severely impact student choice, our students have, on their own, made choices that would mostly fulfill the requirements. Students who would be most affected by the change are those whose course selections were unbalanced to a great degree. The overall impact seems to be that while some students will have to make some different choices, we are equipped with enough courses and staff to meet the new requirements. This is due, in part, to Westport's decision of several years ago to have a twenty-five credit requirement, well above the State minimum of twenty credits.

While we are prepared for the logistical impact of the new requirements, a committee was convened to review the State requirements and develop a plan that balanced our obligation to meet the requirements of the statutes, but that also represents the goals of a Westport education.

The committee's work and recommendations were shared with the Board of Education Teaching and Learning committee after having been shared for feedback with constituencies including the Staples High School Collaborative Team, the Staples High School Student Assembly, a parent focus group, Staples High School building administrators, and the district's grades K-12 and 6-12 curriculum coordinators.

Ultimately, the proposal that will be shared with the full Board of Education on January 23 contains most of what the committee recommended, the highlights of which are:

- Flexibility within categories for students to maintain a high element of choice
- Reductions to current requirements in Social Studies, Physical Education, and the current Practical Arts category to provide maximum student opportunities for choice
- Maintenance of the current requirements in World Languages at 2.0 credits
- Raising the graduation requirement to 26 credits to support the mastery-based diploma requirement

As the Board considers these new requirements, which will apply to students currently in grade eight and forward, it will also have to consider the multiple ways in which the State legislation will allow for administrative regulations on granting credit in non-traditional ways. Upon approval of the requirements, the high school administrative team, teachers, and curriculum coordinators will begin developing a proposal for meeting the mastery-based diploma requirement.

These requirements provide a framework for Staples High School to use as we continue to evaluate our offerings, and develop programs that meet the evolving needs of our students.

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY: This act maintains current graduation requirements, which require students to earn at least 20 credits to graduate, for another two years and subsequently delays implementation of heightened graduation requirements, which require students to earn at least 25 credits.

Prior law required students, beginning with the 2017-18 freshman class, to earn at least 25 credits in order to graduate. The act postpones implementation of this heightened 25-credit requirement to the 2019-20 freshman class. The act also changes several of the heightened requirements' academic content areas and credit minimums established in prior law and allows their fulfillment through successful demonstration of subject matter content mastery achieved through alternative educational experiences and opportunities.

The act also does the following:

1. postpones by two years the beginning of required remedial services for grades seven through 12 (beginning with classes graduating high school in 2023, rather than 2021);
2. requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt statewide subject matter content standards that are reviewed and revised at least every 10 years; and
3. specifies that high school courses must meet these statewide subject matter content standards to fulfill graduation requirements and allows mastery-based courses to satisfy these requirements.

It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

HEIGHTENED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Table 1 below compares the heightened graduation requirements in prior law that were set to take effect with the freshman class entering high school in 2017-18 with the heightened requirements under the act set to take effect two years later with the freshman class entering high school in 2019-20.

Table 1: Comparison of Heightened Graduation Requirements

<i>Heightened Graduation Requirements in Prior Law (CGS § 10-221a)</i>	<i>Heightened Graduation Requirements under the Act</i>
Total minimum credits required: 25	Total minimum credits required: 25
<p>Humanities: at least nine credits, including at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● four in English, including composition; ● three in social studies, including one in American history and at least one-half credit in civics and American government; ● one credit in fine arts; and ● one credit in a humanities elective 	<p>Humanities: at least nine credits, including civics and the arts</p>
<p>Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics: at least eight credits, including at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry, and algebra II or probability and statistics; ● three credits in science, including at least one credit in life science and one in physical science; and ● one credit in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics elective 	<p>Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics: at least nine credits</p>
<p>Career and life skills: at least three-and-a-half credits, including at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one credit in physical education; ● one-half credit in health and safety education; and ● two credits in career and life skills electives, such as career and technical education, personal finance, and public speaking 	<p>Physical education and wellness: at least one credit</p> <p>Health and safety education: at least one credit</p>
<p>World languages: at least two credits*</p>	<p>World languages: at least one credit*</p>
<p>Senior demonstration project or an approved equivalent: one credit</p>	<p>Mastery-based diploma assessment: at least one credit</p>
<p>End of school year examinations in algebra I, geometry, biology, American history, and grade 10 English</p>	<p>N/A</p>

*Existing law, unchanged by the act, allows students to earn up to four credits in fulfillment of the world language requirement (1) in grade six, seven, or eight; (2) through online coursework; or (3) privately through a nonprofit provider, as long as the student achieves a passing grade on an exam prescribed, within available appropriations, by the education commissioner.

SUBJECT MATTER CONTENT MASTERY

The act allows boards of education to grant students credits in fulfillment of high school graduation requirements for successful demonstration of subject matter content mastery achieved through educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning.

These pathways include:

1. cross-curricular graduation requirements,
2. career and technical education,
3. virtual learning,
4. work-based learning,
5. service learning,
6. dual enrollment and early college,
7. courses taken in middle school,
8. internships, and
9. student-designed independent studies.

The act specifies that (1) a local or regional board of education determines whether to grant academic credit for demonstration of mastery through these pathways and (2) demonstration of mastery must be in accordance with the statewide subject matter content standards the act requires SBE to adopt.

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**High School Graduation Requirements - Revisions to Committee Recommendation
January 4, 2019**

	Category	Minimum Credits
Humanities	English (4.0) Social Studies (3.0) Global Themes (1.0) U.S. History (1.0) Civics Requirement (0.5) Area Studies (0.5) Visual and Performing Arts (1.0) Open Humanities (1.0) <u>Any course in:</u> English, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages	9.0
STEAM	Math (3.0) Science (3.0) Open STEAM (3.0) <u>Any course in:</u> Mathematics, Science, Technology Education, Media <u>Or:</u> <i>(full list to be established)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design & Technology</i> • <i>Digital Darkroom</i> • <i>Music Technology</i> • <i>Audio Production</i> • <i>Culinary Arts (specific courses)</i> • <i>Stagecraft: Scene Design & Construction</i> 	9.0
P.E./Health	Health (1.0) P.E. (1.5)	2.5
World Languages	World Languages	2.0
	Mastery-Based Diploma Requirement	1.0
	Electives	2.5
	TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS:	26

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Current Graduation Requirements

GRADUATION CREDIT AND DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT

CREDIT AND DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT

As adopted 3-6-06 by the Board of Education

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Credits</u>
English (1.0 each year)	4.0
Distribution: As part of the English requirement, all students must produce and successfully pass a major research paper in their sophomore English class. Students not meeting this requirement MUST take a full-year English class in their junior year.	
Social Studies	3.5
Distribution:	
• Global Themes	1.0
• U.S. History	1.0
• American Government	.5
• Area Study	.5
• Additional Course	.5
Mathematics	3.0
Science	2.0
World Language (any one world language, in sequence)	2.0
Physical Education and Health	3.0
Distribution:	
• Freshman year	1.0
• Sophomore year	1.0
• Junior year	1.0
Arts	1.5
(Minimum of .5 in Fine Arts and .5 in Practical/Human Arts; remaining .5 in either area.)	
• Fine Arts: Art, Music, Theater	
Practical Arts/Human Arts: Academic Support, Accounting, Advanced Journalism, Community Service, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Engineering & Applied Physics, Financial Decision Making, Media, Personal Financial Management, Psychology of Child Development, Relationships, Scientific Research, Technology Education, Wellness Seminar	
Electives	6.0
TOTAL	25