

Board of Education Hearing on Americanism  
Monday, August 9, 2021 7:00 PM  
Jr-Sr High School Conference Room - Room  
202  
611 West 7th Street  
Wayne, Nebraska 68787

- I. Call the Meeting to Order
- II. Hearing on Americanism
- III. Adjournment

Memorandum  
RE: LB 399

#### WCS COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST

For the calendar year 2021, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: Jeryl Nelson, Jaime Manz, and Sylvia Ruhl.

The Committee on American Civics met on June 7, 2021 and will schedule a meeting in August. The Committee will accept public testimony on the following date: August 9, 2021.

The Committee completed the following tasks (check when completed):

Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards.

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic.

Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including;

(a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade;

(b) a set amount of time to teach American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; This occurs during 5th and 8th grade, and;

(c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics. This occurs during 7th grade Civics, 11th grade US History and 12th grade American Government classes.

Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

A) Review of Curriculum

- a. The committee reviewed State Statute 79-724 - Committee on Americanism
- b. Listed below are components of our curriculum for social studies;**
- c. The social studies curriculum provides an appropriate amount of time on
  - i. Adequately stresses contributions of all ethnic groups to
    1. Development and growth of America into a great nation
    2. Art, Music, education, medicine literature, science, politics, and government
    3. War services on wars of the nation
- d. The curriculum also provides an appropriate amount of time on;
  - i. Recital of stories having to do with American history
  - ii. The singing of patriotic songs and memory of the Star Spangled Banner, beginning with elementary school
  - iii. The development of reverence for the flag and proper conduct in its presentation
    1. Pledge recited each day in school by all grades
    2. Pledge recited prior to each board meeting
    3. Reverence for United States flag is taught in elementary school and at the annual Veteran's Day assembly for k-12 students
  - iv. Appropriate amount of time spent on
    1. The United States Constitution
    2. The benefits and advantages of our form of government and the dangers and fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and similar ideologies.
    3. The duties of citizenship

B) Recommendations from previous Meetings include;

- a. Continue the development of curriculum based on state and national standards
- b. Continue to seek opportunities to hold patriotic exercises suitable to patriotic occasions – Veteran's Day program, high school band perform at Memorial Day celebration. Various music concerts with patriotic music selections.
- c. Continue practice of bringing 4<sup>th</sup> grade to state capitol for a field trip
- d. Continue practice of seniors attend public civic meeting within curriculum
- e. Place focus on Nebraska History by:
  - i. Seek opportunities to promote Nebraska History by conducting field trips to local parks and historical sites within the state.
  - ii. Focus reading curriculum in Social Studies classes by addressing more Nebraska historical curriculum.
  - iii. Continue to monitor the State of Nebraska review of Social Studies curriculum. Seek opportunities to have staff available for committee work on the new standards if possible.
- f. Consider integrating veteran experiences into the annual Veteran's Day Program
- g. Maintain the Veteran's Day program as a k-12 assembly.
- h. Pre-school will develop their own age appropriate Veteran's Day program.
- i. Continue and support Athletic Director initiative of instituting flag reverence standards for athletic competitions during National Anthem.
- j.

## **Agenda: Curriculum/American Committee on Civics Meeting – Wayne Board of Education**

Date: 6-7-21 @ 3:45 PM Wayne Jr/Sr High Library

Attendee's: Board members; Jeryl Nelson, Jaime Manz, Sylvia Ruhl,, Mark Lenihan, Supt.

Agenda of discussion items;

- Agenda planning for the June 14th board meeting
- Americanism Statute
  - Reviewed components of LB 399 - the committee reviewed the Americanism requirements and went over the checklist.
  - Mr. Lenihan will present a form of activities that address American Civics, and information on required components of the social studies curriculum at the public hearing.
  - The committee determined the required public hearing will be held August 2021 School Board Meeting
- Art scope and sequence form
  - The committee reviewed the Art scope and sequence sheet
- Discuss curriculum updates - Math, Science, Health
  - Math - final year of Saxon, staff will review curriculum for the 22-23 school year.
  - Science -
  - Health - committee and admin staff will watch for updates on the new health standards.
- Discuss assessment schedule for 21-22
  - Fall - MAPs, Dec MAP's & NCSAS, Spring NSCAS
- PMC Athletic training update
- Board retreat date - June 21st does not work for NASB
  - Retreat will be on Tuesday, June 22nd at 5:00 at the Early Learning Center
- Miscellaneous items
  
- Questions/discussion: