

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

M. Ku A. Uberti K. Longobucco C. Lombardo
J. Vouros F. Purcaro K. Davey L. McLean

Also present Board of Education member Deborra Zukowski.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 10/12/21.
M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Health I and II – K. Davey, L. McLean, C. Lombardo, K. Longobucco

Presentation of newly revised [Health I and II](#).

The revised curriculum will be presented to the Board of Education on November 3rd for the first read.

English Language Learners Update – F. Purcaro

The population of English language learners is increasing in the district. Dr. Purcaro provided an overview of the support that is in place for students and their families: Presentation: [Supporting English Language Learners](#).

J. Vorous expressed concern that some families may have not participated because it was too intimidating or perhaps their English is not proficient.

F. Purcaro stated the families of English language learners were specifically to explain what the evening is about. M. Theodosiou, ESL Teacher, explains to them what the evening is about and that they are welcomed. She reached out to every family that was identified. We learned some things from having the event. We will tweak what we have and improve when we offer it at our next spring session.

J. Vorous asked what are we doing to identify the students that are gifted that may need to be serviced. F. Purcaro stated some of the resources, such as i-Ready or Bridges math have Spanish translation. We want to make sure that it is not the language barrier that is holding students back.

J. Vorous asked when the students are taking the assessments can we hire translators that can sit with the students. Then we can get a true assessment of what is going on.

F. Purcaro stated in certain situations that is probably what we should be doing. The cohort of our ELLs would certainly benefit from sitting with a translator. One of the challenges would be to find someone who translates in the multiple languages we would need. Then we have the languages with the different dialogue.

Assistant Superintendent Update – A. Uberti

- On October 20th professional development was held for about 150 para educators. Certified staff presented. It was held virtually and there were two sessions. This session was for K-8. This was held on an early dismissal/conference day. 9-12 paras' session will be when the high school has their parent/teacher conferences in November. All paras will have training on the same day during the March conferences. A. Uberti worked closely with Marlene Bucci, Para Union President, to develop the training options for paras.
- Planning and preparation is underway for the November 2nd Professional Development Day for certified staff. PD will be offered in buildings with a variety of options tailored to teachers' needs. K-5 teachers will be getting Bridges support training, we have training coming in for our grades 6-8 teachers will be also getting training for math. There will be vertical meetings for our specialists, PE teachers, Health teachers, and World language teachers. There will be some additional training on Lexia, and some other programs that teachers have been requesting.
- On November 2nd we will have the school secretaries prepare the i-Ready reports to be mailed out November 3rd to families. Some teachers were able to share reports during conferences. All parents will receive reports in the next week.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

