

Newtown Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on February 14, 2018 in the BOE Conference Room.

J. Vouros      M. Ku      S. Earle      M. Hall      J. Evans Davila

J. Vouros motioned to approve the minutes from December 13, 2017 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public participation: None

S. Earle shared that the Project Challenge website is now updated and is ADA compliant. In October, a survey was sent to 98 families with a 30% response rate. The majority requested workshops related to "Parenting Our Kids" and "Understanding the Program." Since the survey, two successful workshops have been offered. The third and last workshop will be "Parenting for the Underachiever."

Project Challenge would like to ask for a policy for acceleration for both subject and grade. M. Ku informed them that a new policy is being reviewed by the sub-committee on retention and acceleration and is modeled after a CAFE policy. A suggestion was made that Project Challenge teachers review this policy before it goes to the Policy Committee.

J. Vouros recommended that one experienced and one novice attend future workshop/training. Digital administration of the OLSAT is being discussed. With regard to the OLSAT assessment, the teachers of Project Challenge manage all of the testing, re-testing, and the scoring by hand of re-takes; Dr. Earle noted that this process takes reduces the amount of contact time they have available to provide instruction to the children in the program. A move toward online administration of OLSAT with digital score reporting were suggested as having the potential to be helpful with the use of the Alpine data warehouse platform that Newtown Public Schools has begun implementing districtwide.

M. Hall is in favor of moving forward with digital testing and supports administering the OLSAT in the summer for students transferring into the district; this has been a request from Reed Intermediate School, which uses the results for placing students in Math classes.

J. Evans Davila stated that Project Challenge needs to begin to developing formalized curriculum in the concept-based model, so it can be made available for viewing on our online platform. Project Challenge has been allocated curriculum hours for this summer in the proposed budget. J. Evans Davila noted that she will be including teachers from Project Challenge in the upcoming two-day workshop in Concept-based Curriculum and Instruction this March with Dr. Lois Lanning.

J. Vouros made a suggestion to have one high school counselor for all Project Challenge students. S. Earle asked whom she should contact at the high school Guidance of Department. J. Davila asked M. Hall to make the connection with Bret Nichols, the newly appointed K-12 Director of Guidance.

J. Evans Davila reminded S. Earle to submit recommendations and requests that impact budget in the time period prior to October each year in preparation for the following school year. She asked for closer communication to occur between the Director of Personnel and Pupil Services and the Project Challenge teachers through M. Hall or directly themselves, at the start of each school year, being certain this occurs prior to October to discuss potential budget requests.

Public Participation: none

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn at 12:04 p.m.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Bennett

These are draft minutes and are subject to the approval of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.