

**Newtown Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee**

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, in the BOE Conference Room.

J. Vouros                      J. Evans Davila              A. Marks  
M. Ku                              C. Siano

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2019 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation - None.

**Public Speaking:**

A. Marks introduced the revised Public Speaking curriculum by explaining its former status as a dual credit course through collaboration with Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC). Although this is no longer a college credit bearing course, it remains very popular with students. The curriculum has been revised, with more latitude to the curriculum designers now that the NVCC partnership is no longer in place. This course is a senior elective. This year 89 students were enrolled. A. Marks overviewed each of the units of study within the revised course, and she discussed the purpose of each unit in terms of student outcomes. There is no prerequisite for the course, other than having satisfied the requirements of English I and II in freshman and sophomore year. A. Marks shared a recent parent letter she received from a graduate's parents in which the course was praised for preparing her student to meet the challenge of presenting publicly in a variety of venues. M. Ku complimented A. Marks on the revision of the curriculum into the conceptual model.

M. Ku inquired about opportunities other than the unit in Public Speaking that prepare students for the college application essay. A. Marks described the scaffolding of skills in English I, II, and III that has taught students how to revise drafts. Also, A. Marks noted the role of the Guidance Department in preparing students for the college essay in junior year. A. Marks noted that there seems to be a trend of colleges moving toward a more individualized student essay as opposed to the common application essay questions. J. Vouros asked if there were plans for a dedicated preparation session for students. J. Evans Davila suggested that at another time the BOE or the C & I Committee might consider having A. Marks return together with some teachers and staff from Guidance to address preparation of students for the college essay.

Regarding the conceptual design of the newly revised Public Speaking curriculum, A. Marks noted that teachers enjoy the structure provided by the Guiding Questions in the concept-based model. She stated that teachers do use these questions to implement instruction in the courses.

**Assistant Superintendent's Update:**

J. Evans Davila noted that due to a recent weather event, Curriculum Council was cancelled on the date that the Math 5/5+ and 6 curricula were to be reviewed. This creates the potential for revision to the proposed C & I Agenda for March 12, as the this curricula might not have cleared the Curriculum Council prior to this date. J. Evans Davila proposed alternate agenda items for C & I to consider as they plan forward for this meeting.

Public Participation – None.

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Norling

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