

Board of Education  
Newtown, CT  
Curriculum and instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on September 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.

J. Vouros

M. Ku

J. Evans Davila

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Participation: None

J. Evans Davila gave an update on the Elementary Special Progress Reports. Specials will provide Progress Reports in Trimester 2 and 3 only. This year our focus is to implement Art, Music and PE for Grades 1-4 only and Library Grades 3-4 and define standards and assessment pieces

The Curriculum Development Process and Initial Training In The Concept-Based Curriculum Model was introduced to the C and I Subcommittee. J. Evans Davila explained how this plan represents a collaboration through formal and informal discussions which helped to guide the articulation of a District vision of curriculum development and professional development protocols that will result in a consistent understanding of conceptual design and its relationship to teaching and learning. The initial phase of professional learning outlined in each level of this plan is intended to establish a consistent, baseline understanding of concept-based curriculum as it relates to curriculum development and review. All principals have already been trained by L. Rodrigue. Staff has already been identified for the first tier of training to support their role in the development and review process. Opportunities for all staff to receive concept-based training will continue to be made available. Staff engaged in summer curriculum development and revisions must be trained in concept-based and also be able to enter their projects into the Rubicon Atlas. Training in Rubicon will be available through after school professional learning opportunities, free webinars and videos. M. Ku complimented on the incredible job J. Evans Davila did on this document.

Transition from NMS to NHS was discussed starting with the topic of rigor as a priority. J. Evans Davila currently is visiting schools and classrooms during the day and sending observable comments to principals only. Monthly PLC meetings with T. Einhorn and L Rodrigue are being held to discuss grades 7-12 working together during three PLC days this year. Plans are being discussed for an ELA self-study with the Language Arts Consultants, Reading Specialists, ELA Coordinators, English Department Chairs, and identified English teachers. The results will be a presentation to the Board. It was suggested that the middle school and the high school take steps to ensure that parents and students fully understand the Pathways/STEM process. This should be discussed at conferences at the beginning of each year allowing them to be ready to make a decision in February or March and to further explore the process.

C and I Subcommittee Goals for the 2016-2017 school year were reviewed and agreed upon as follows: Forming a committee to conduct a self-study of the K-12 English Language Arts program, establishing monthly meetings with the focus of examining and defining appropriate rigor in classroom instruction, and conducting a self-study of the K-12 Social and Emotional Learning program. The C and I Subcommittee will receive an update on the launch and implementation of the Freshman Advanced STEM Partnership to expand opportunities for highly capable ninth grade learners.

Future dates for the C and I Subcommittee were established with the goal of meeting twice per month.

Open Forum: None

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn the meeting. M. Ku seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

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