

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

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, in the BoE Conference Room.

M. Ku            A. Uberti  
J. Vouros

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None.

**Newtown High School Grading Guidelines Update**

NHS Principal Dr. Kim Longobucco provided a report to C&I on the grading guidelines that were implemented at the high school at the start of the current school year. A similar presentation will be made to the full Board of Education on November 19, 2019.

Key points of the Dr. Longobucco's presentation:

- Dr. Longobucco shared the timeline for moving towards consistent grading practices
- The shift was made over months (discussions began in January 2019) and involved discussions that included administrators, department chairs and teachers
- Department chairs were involved with on-going discussions with teachers and administrators
- Department Chairs finalized percentage grading guidelines within their departments in May 2019
- Professional development for all certified staff on the updated grading guidelines was presented in August 2019, and included support for accurately setting up gradebooks in PowerSchool
- Prior to the establishment of consistent guidelines, grading practices varied widely among teachers, even those teaching the same courses in the same grade levels, creating unfairness
- The revised NHS grading guidelines are:
  - A minimum of **60%** of a student's quarter grade will be measured using summative assessments
  - A minimum of 40% of a student's quarter grade will be measured using formative assessments
  - Percentages are decided by departments
  - Courses must use the same percentages, regardless of teacher
  - Department/teachers take into consideration the level of a course, grade of a course

- Such grading practices are common in area high schools and most high schools in our DRG have similar, if not more stringent, practices
- An analysis of first quarter grades demonstrates that grades are fairly consistent to first quarter grades last year

An update on SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) in schools was tabled due to time.

Public Participation: None.

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.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.