Board of Education Newtown CT

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on October 13, 2015, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street

M. Ku J. Vouros J. Evans Davila J. Erardi P. Kurz J. Sullivan

M. Ku called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: M. Ku moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2015. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Participation: None

J. Evans Davila introduced teachers P. Kurz, from HOM and J.Sullivan, Lead Teacher from MG to the Subcommittee. Both teachers took part in the writing and editing of Grades 3 and 4 Social Studies Curriculum.

Grades 3 and 4 Social Studies Curriculum was presented and reviewed by the Subcommittee and presenting teachers.

Motion to accept the S.S. Grades 3 and 4 Curriculum was made by M. Ku to move forward the curriculum to the NBOE for a first read on October 20, 2015. Seconded by J. Vouros.

A review of the progress regarding the 5-year Curriculum Plan took place with J. Evans Davila agreeing to work on a proposal for rotating curricula through various phases of the plan. Suggested was Year I Review of Curriculum (determining changes or revisions required and considering needs of the children) Years II and III Development of the Curriculum with Resources, and Years IV and V Implementation

A review of the objectives pertaining to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee was presented as follows:

- 1. Ensure that the direction of the curriculum reflects the Board of Education mission, beliefs and objectives at both the course-specific and K-12 vertical alignment level.
- 2. Meet with administration and staff to review goals, curriculum updates, new textbooks, proposed or revised courses and program and make recommendations regarding these items.

Discussion and review regarding C and I goals for 2015-2016 took place with all in agreement of the following items:

- 1. Midyear review of the Grade K Spanish pilot program;
- 2. Grade 8/9 student transition for an in-depth examination of rigor and readiness for middle school youngsters moving forward to Newtown High School which will include research on a grade nine honors academy;
- 3. Full day kindergarten and its effect on instructional change for primary grades due to enhanced student readiness;
- 4. Continued examination and review of alternative programming at Newtown High School;
- 5. Virtual Learning Academy (online student opportunity) as a continued resource and option for high performing students and for students in need of credit recovery and/or homebound instruction;
- 6. K-12 chronological review of science;
- 7. Supporting and embracing the October 2015 decennial accreditation self-study of Newtown High School;
- 8. K-8 program review centered on gifted and talented students will be brought to the Board of Education on or before December 2015;
- 9. Support for continued evaluation and improvement of communication with parents about student performance and pathways, with a focus on transitions between schools;
- 10. Support for the review of school start times and how they might be changed to better align with CDC recommendations for sleep.;
- 11. Review/establish rubrics for the evaluation of textbooks and curriculum and propose policy for pilot programs; and
- 12. Continue to address the curriculum from the 5 year plan (review progress against expectations)

A discussion regarding the NBOE New Program and Pilot Project Policy was mentioned along with two policies provided by CABE and Newtown's current one. The Pilot Program Application Form was also considered as part of the current district practices. Dr. Erardi to bring this to the next Policy Meeting for consideration in rewriting BOE Policy.

The Over-ride process was mentioned ,and it was recommended by Dr. J. Erardi that all Principals Grades 5-12 must be aligned.

Public Participation: None

Adjourned at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted

Beverly Schaedler