

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

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on April 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room, 3 Primrose Street.

J. Vouros  
M. Ku

L. Gejda  
A. Marks

J. Erardi

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Abi Marks, English Department Chair, spoke about three elective courses at Newtown High School. Those courses are Composition through Contemporary Issues, Writing through Film and Literary Perspectives on Sports. Writing through Film is the most popular. These are electives for seniors who have the opportunity to take two electives as their senior English requirement. The composition course deals with contemporary non-fiction books and culminates with a research paper.

Dr. Gejda requested a list of the English elective courses for the Board.  
Mr. Vouros felt it would be good to have samples of the writing at the Board meeting.

Mrs. Marks said the Writing through Film is taken by college prep and honors students. The sports literature course was sparked by student interest and focuses on analysis and writing. The first year 71 students took this course. The last two years we average 50 students running two sections.

Dr. Gejda said these curricula would go to the Board for approval in May.  
Mr. Vouros encouraged Mrs. Marks to look for a sports journalist to speak to the students.

MOTION: Mrs. Ku moved to send the high school Jazz Improvisations 1 and 2 to the Board. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Erardi joined the meeting to discuss the math presentation to the Board. He felt the presentation was received well but the connection to science needs further discussion. There also needs to be a discussion about parent partnership, parent voice, and overrides at Reed Intermediate School, the middle school and the high school. A presentation for the Board regarding the science curriculum would be a good follow-up.

Dr. Gejda wanted to have someone speak to parents about a robotics program. She would have the NWEA results in mid-May for grades 4 through 7.

Mrs. Ku requested to see the data and information about numbers of students entering the different math classes in grades 5-8 (students currently in 4-7) in Fall of 2015.

Mrs. Ku spoke about her feelings regarding the math presentation. Communication has improved and the parents' request for rigor or more challenge for students should remain in our thoughts.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Ku moved to adjourn. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy June.