

Newtown Board of Education  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Minutes from February 23, 2016 Meeting

Present: A. Colangelo (All-Star), J. Evans Davila, J. Erardi, M. Ku, and J. Vouros  
(J. McEvoy, Recording Secretary)

Item 1: J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Item 2: J. Vouros made a motion to approve the February 9, 2016 minutes, and M. Ku seconded.

- M. Ku asked for a final copy of the revised draft of the New Course Pilot Policy that will be sent through J. Erardi for consideration to the Policy Subcommittee
- J. Evans Davila will send the final draft to J. Vouros and M. Ku.

Item 3: Public Participation: None

Item 4: K-12 Science Review Update: J. Evans Davila

- Tabled until later in the meeting.

Item 5: All Star Transportation Update: J. Evans Davila

- The Subcommittee told A. Colangelo that they are trying to understand the options for later start times for NHS and the impact this will have on the bus routes in terms of time, cost, ridership, etc.
- J. Erardi shared with A. Colangelo a summary of some of the recent discussions that have been taking place regarding transportation during the budget season.
- J. Erardi explained that R. Dufour (All Star) weighed in on potentially going from a 3-tier to 4-tier system if school start times were to be proposed for change and stated that it would not be easy and would involve increased cost.
- J. Erardi asked A. Colangelo about other school systems served by All Star that have gone from a 3-tier to a 4-tier system of busses. J. Erardi stated that he believes that New Canaan and Wilton (not served by All Star) have done so and suggested they be contacted.
- Waterbury's bus routes were brought up, and A. Colangelo explained that there are three areas of Waterbury that are served by the busses and each area has their own busses. This is unlike Newtown, where the busses have to criss-cross all over town, making routes much more time-consuming.
- J. Erardi explained to A. Colangelo that J. Vouros is on a committee with R. Harriman-Stites that has a charge to stay in front of issues that marginalize School Climate & Culture

(i.e. Sleep research shows that high school students learn better when they have more sleep which raises the issues associated with changes in school start times).

- M. Ku asked whether Reed Intermediate School (RIS) and Newtown Middle School (NMS) bus routes could be combined. A. Colangelo stated that J. Baumgart of All-Star thinks she remembers Reed and Hawley students riding busses together for a while, but not Reed and Middle School. A. Colangelo stated it could be possible but fifth graders would be riding with middle school students, which parents might find concerning.
- J. Erardi asked if a RIS/NMS combined route would have a higher ridership than Newtown High School. A. Colangelo stated that we would have full busses, as we average 25-30 students on busses with just RIS students now.
- The Subcommittee asked A. Colangelo if we would be able to cut back on busses with possible changes and declining enrollments. A. Colangelo answered that he didn't know. He explained that when All Star gives us the numbers for ridership for the week, they are giving us an average. When they set up the routes at the beginning of the year, they have to guarantee a seat for each student even if they don't end up riding the bus during the school year. Since All Star doesn't know what the ridership will be, they can't reduce the number of busses to less than based on the actual student population.
- J. Vouros asked A. Colangelo, "If All Star bases their decision on the number of busses needed as of 8/31 (looking at all students potentially riding busses), would it be a very different number if you looked at 9/15 actual ridership?" A. Colangelo replied "Yes, that would be right." A. Colangelo also raised the issue that we have to think about the private schools. Right now St. Rose has 7 busses, and some busses carry RIS and St. Rose students. J. Erardi said that if we look at changing school start times, the private schools would be around the table, so we could marginalize the impact on them.
- M. Ku asked A. Colangelo, "if we go with 4 Tier, we would then eliminate the 20 minute period needed to go between NHS and NMS, correct?" Alan answered that there would be one wave at NHS and one wave at NMS. However, he pointed out that the entire fleet would not fit into NHS or NMS.
- A. Colangelo asked how the proposed later start time at NHS would impact sports. J. Erardi said that it wouldn't be a factor.
- A. Colangelo stated that the proposed schedule that the Subcommittee gave to him for review for potential new start times just is not feasible time-wise. Those times were as follows:
  - 1) Elementary Schools: 9:05 am – 3:37 pm
  - 2) RIS: 8:25 am – 3:09 pm
  - 3) NMS & NHS: 7:50 am – 2:32 pm

Additionally, he stated that there are factors that hit the busses every day that slow them up, i.e. traffic on 34 (Wasserman Way) and Route 25. J. Vouros asked A. Colangelo how

often this type of hold-up occurs, and A. Colangelo answered, "There are 3 busses on the second wave at Reed that have this on a daily basis." J. Vouros asked if traffic monitors at the HS could help with the traffic situation there. A. Colangelo answered, "No, because it's just a matter of the large volume of vehicles going through a small area."

- J. Vouros asked "If we had 3 extra busses at Reed, would that solve the problem there?" He added that the Board of Finance inquired about reducing busses, and based on the research regarding adolescents needing more sleep for optimal learning, we would need to consider changing NHS to a later start time. J. Vouros expressed concern with getting the best situation for children and for staff.
- J. Erardi said that the first objective should be to move the NHS start time as late as we can. We should give All Star this scenario, and let them tell us how it will work. J. Evans Davila agreed. She suggested that because the proposed schedule the Committee gave to All Star for review isn't feasible without an understanding of the realistic windows of time required between schools when schedules are adjusted, the Subcommittee should give A. Colangelo some broad parameters and let him and All-Star come back to us with a plan. The main parameter would be that the High School needs to begin 30 – 45 minutes later than it does now.
- Next steps:
  - 1) At next C & I Subcommittee Meeting, set scenarios/broad parameters for what the Committee wants to ask of All Star.
    - Thoughts: If we split to 4 tiers with NHS, NMS, RIS and elementary schools on each tier, what would be the cost? Could NMS and RIS be combined? All Star could propose times for all other routes if we were to start NHS 30-45 minutes later.
  - 2) Bring back Dr. Kanaan to discuss sleep study
  - 3) Contact Wilton or New Canaan to ask about their system.
  - 4) Review bus contract for specificity on date that it goes out to bid.

Changes in school start times will not happen for the 2016-2017 school year, but we need to gather the information now and build capacity. J. Evans Davila will invite J. Erardi to attend the next C & I Subcommittee Meeting if it coordinates with his calendar.

Item #4: K-12 Science Review Update: J. Evans Davila

- C. Canfield is leading the K-12 Science Self-study Committee, known as SSSC.
- Current Membership is composed of the following:
  - K-4: J. Bracksieck
  - 5-6: D. Hall and P. Bernson
  - 7-8: B. Iacofano and J. Ross
- J. Evans Davila has directed C. Canfield and the SSSC to review the current content, process and practices of the science program and how it intersects with mathematics.

The SSSC will explore the continuum of courses for logic and cohesion across K-12. The SSSC must create a PowerPoint (10 minutes maximum) summarizing the results of the self-study for presentation to the C & I Subcommittee on March 22, 2016, and to full BOE on April 5, 2016.

- Currently the SSSC members are working on the self-study from their own buildings and collaborating virtually through use of Google Docs. The first face-to-face meeting of SSSC will be in Central Office on March 1, 2016.
- The question that C. Canfield and the SSSC Committee has asked in return is, "What does C & I Committee or BOE hope to discover from this presentation?" M. Ku answered, "The process and practices of the science curriculum that are currently in the district". J. Vouros replied, "How is math tied to science?" J. Evans Davila explained that she had advised C. Canfield that the presentation should examine where we are now and how we can we grow. At the high school level, it should address also the opportunities within and outside of the current program for high achieving students in science.

Item #6: Curriculum Update on What Has Been Accomplished/What Remains Unapproved: M. Ku

- M. Ku handed out copies of a spreadsheet entitled "BOE Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee (2014-2015)," which shows curriculum that has been reviewed and approved to date by the C & I Committee and the BOE. She also handed out the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Objectives and 2015/2016 Goals. These items are both attached to the minutes.
- J. Evans Davila informed those present that a pilot course application will be coming forward at the next C & I Meeting to review AP Computer Science Principles, a new offering from College Board that would be launched by the B.E.A.T. Department. K. Violette from NHS, along with Principal L. Rodrigue, will present the proposal to C & I on March 8, 2016 and to the BOE on March 15, 2016.
- J. Evans Davila advised the C & I Committee that A. Uberti and D. Hall from RIS will be coming to the next C & I Meeting on March 8, 2016 to discuss progress to date on the advanced curriculum for mathematics. M. Ku stated that this will need to be an approved curriculum.

Item #7: Curriculum Approval Status 2014-2015: Repeats Item 6; not necessary as separate agenda item.

Item #8: Public Participation: None.

Item #9: Agenda Recommendations for the Next Meeting on March 8, 2016:

- 1) At next meeting, set scenarios/broad parameters for what the Committee wants to ask of All Star.

- Thoughts: If we split to 4 tiers with NHS, NMS, RIS and elementary schools on each tier, what would be the cost? Could NMS and RIS be combined? Ask All Star for proposed times for all routes if NHS start time were to move 30-45 minutes later.

2) Principal A. Uberti and D. Hall on RIS Math Curriculum in 10:15 time slot for 30 minutes.

3) Principal L. Rodrigue and K. Violette on NHS AP Computer Science Principles pilot course application.

Item #10 J. Vouros motioned to adjourn the C & I Subcommittee Meeting at 11:50 am.  
M. Ku seconded.

*These are draft minutes and are subject to the approval of the C & I Subcommittee.*

# BOE Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee (2014-15)

Curriculum	C&I Review	C&I Approved	BOE Review	BOE Approved
<b>K-4</b>				
Social Studies 3/4	6/9/15	6/19/15		
K-4 Physical Education	5/12/15	5/26/15		8/18/2015
Elementary Spanish (pilot)	11/12/2014, 12/9/2014	1/13/2014		
<b>Reed Intermediate School</b>				
Grade 5/6 Social Studies	4/29/15	5/12/15		8/18/2015
<b>Newtown Middle School</b>				
7/8 Grade Social Studies	9/23/2014			11/5/2014
<b>Newtown High School</b>				
Advanced Auto (new program)	7/23/2014			8/19/2014
Western Philosophy (pilot)	7/23/2014	9/23/2014		8/19/2014
African Studies		9/23/2014		11/5/2014
Latin America Studies		9/23/2014		11/5/2014
Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry	10/14/2014	11/3/2014		12/2/2014
Sports Literature, Composition through Contemporary Issues, Writing through Film	11/3/2014, 4/7/2014	5/12/2015		10/6/2015
Unified Theater Arts (pilot?)	11/13/2014	1/13/2015		
Grades 7 & 8 math	11/13/2014	11/25/2014		1/6/2015
Grades 7 & 8 accelerated math	11/12/2014	11/25/2014		1/6/2015
Baking and Pastry	12/9/2014	1/29/2015		2/17/2015
Skills 21 (Digital Media and Literacy) pilot	3/24/2015	3/24/2015		
Earth and Energy Essentials (Earth Science) pilot	3/24/2015	3/24/2015		
SRBI Reading (support program)	3/24/2015			
Writing Center Theory and Practice (pilot course and support)	3/24/2015	3/24/2015		
Jazz Improvisation I&II	3/24/2015	4/7/2015		5/5/2015
AP Computer Science (pilot)	3/24/2015	3/24/2015		
English I, II, III	5/12/15			
Child Development I & 2	5/26/15	6/9/15		10/6/2015
Biology, Chemistry, Physics and IPES	5/26/2015, 6/19/2015	8/10/15		9/3/2015
Western Studies 1&2	5/26/15	6/9/15		10/6/2015
Western Philosophy (new program)	5/26/15	6/9/15		10/6/2015
Video Game Design (pilot)	1/7/2016	1/12/2016		2/2/2016

BOE Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee (2014-15)

Textbooks	Approved			
Culinary Essentials	8/19/2014			
Marketing Essentials	8/19/2014			
Stats in Your World	8/19/2014			
Chemistry: The Central Science eText with Mastering Chemistry	8/19/2014			
Ecce Romani I	3/17/2014			

# BOE Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee (2014-15)

Topics					
Goals and Priorities					
Concept Based Curriculum and Instruction					
Math Sequence K-12					
GATES					
Full Day Kindergarten					
Class Size					
HS Credit Requirements					
Homebound Instruction					
Childcare for Staff					
School Calendar & PLC					
SBAC					
Curriculum Development Guide					
NWEA tests					
Robotics					
Students and Sleep					
Override practice					
Science Sequence K-12					
Freshman Academy of Excellence					



## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE - Objectives**

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 changed courses and programs and make recommendations regarding these items.

## **2015/16 Goals**

1. A 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 an enhanced student readiness;
4. A 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. A K-12 chronology review of science;
7. Supporting and embracing the October 2015 decennial accreditation self-study of Newtown High School ;
8. A 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 continued evaluation and improvement of communication with parents about student performance and pathways, with a focus on transitions between schools.
10. Support 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.
12. Continue to address the curriculum from the 5 year plan (review progress against expectations)