

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction/SEL Subcommittee

D. Ramsey J. Vouros A. Uberti
C. Gilson K. DiBartolo

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction/SEL Subcommittee held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

- D. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- D. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes from the 2/27/24 meeting.
- C. Gilson seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Educator Evaluation Update – A. Uberti

- The Connecticut Guidelines for Education and Support for Educators and Administrators were updated in August of 2023.
- This represents a significant shift from the prior SEED Model that was adopted in 2017.
- The new plan emphasizes high-quality professional learning to improve practice and ultimately, student outcomes and educator.
- The new plan also focuses on educator growth and agency through reflection and timely and meaningful feedback.
- It allows for the differentiation of roles - for example teachers, counselors, instructional coaches, etc by allowing the use of more than one set of standards.
- The new guidelines contain non-negotiables that our new plan must include.
- Many of the shifts that have been made by the new guidelines align closely with shifts that were made to existing NPS teacher and administrator evaluation plan because of flexibilities that were allowed by the CSDE since COVID.
- The CSDE also recently released a model plan that districts may adopt in whole or part.
- Districts will be required to submit their evaluation plans to the state for approval next year. This is similar to what has happened in the past.
- Before submitting the NPS plan, it will need to be approved by a representative committee as well as the Board of Education.
- Any change to the current evaluation plan will have a major impact on our teachers, as it will require training on the new plan as well as potential training on a new data dashboard to manage the process.
- Given the all of the other major new initiatives that are impacting many groups of NPS teachers - most specifically the new K-8 reading programs, Mrs. Uberti recommends the following:
 - For the 24-25 school year, make any needed changes to our current plan in order for it to meet the guidelines - minor changes are anticipated.
 - Present that plan to the Board for approval and then submit it to the state.

- o Mrs. Uberti recommends convening a committee that would use next year to thoroughly evaluate our existing plan, as well as the model plan, to draft a new plan that would meet the needs of NPS educators and administrators.
- o That new plan would likely come to the Board at the end of next year to then be submitted to the CSDE for approval for implementation in the 25-26 school year.
- o This plan also provides time to investigate a platform and budget for it in the next cycle.
- o This would give teachers ample time for feedback and input and also delay the rollout of a brand new plan until 25-26.

Kindergarten Readiness Update- A. Uberti

- Elementary schools had a successful early Kindergarten registration and screening process and met the March 1st deadline for notification of placement
- Ms. Petersen, Ms. Raquel and Mrs. Uberti have been meeting regularly to work through questions as they come up, including coming up with a rescreen protocol
- The information collected as a result of the screening will help our elementary schools plan for balanced classes and ensure support where needed.
- Currently have 17 students identified for enrollment in the program.
- Next step will be to look at staffing so that the positions can be posted.

- There are concerns that an additional special education teacher may be needed to appropriately service the needs of both our Prek and K Readiness. This analysis is underway and Mrs. Uberti will keep the Board informed.

Reading Webinar Series CSDE – K. DiBartolo

- Mrs. DiBartolo initiated a statewide PLC with other districts that are implementing EL Imagine Learning K-5.
- Representative from the CSDE reached out to ask if they could participate.
- Based on the PLC and work the district has been doing, Newtown was invited to create a Webinar as part of a new series that the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success will be showcasing on their website.
- The webinar will be called “Infinite Possibilities – Doing this Together” where school districts will share their success and challenges in implementing a science of reading curriculum.
- Joining Ms. DiBartolo will be Ms. Uberti, Ms. Robin Notaro, Language Arts Consultant, and Mr. Michael Wight, Grade 2 Teacher.
- The webinar highlights the adoption and implementation process, successes, considerations and future focus areas and is designed to help other districts who may be considering EL Imagine Learning.

Public Participation: None

D. Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

C. Gilson seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.