

Board of Education
Newtown, CT
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes on the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on January 26, 2016, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street

J. Vouros
T. Einhorn

M. Ku
J. Ross

J. Evans Davila
J. Erardi

L. Rodrigue
J. Blanchard

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016. M. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion took place regarding Sleep Study and ways we can help students. J. Blanchard suggested that parents need to be informed of the effects of sleep and their children, she stated that we need to “teach” skills to train the brain for sleep. Sleep is addressed specifically in the Health Curriculum in grades 1,3,9,and 11.

Questions regarding busing and cost of a four tier system were mentioned along with changing of start times at the Reed, Middle School and High School. This would allow the student to obtain additional sleep hours.

J. Erardi has requested that the committee propose questions he can ask All-Star regarding the changing of start times without changing elementary hours and potential cost.

Other creative, internal, options to rearrange schedules were discussed such as making Unified Arts the first class of the day, providing children with downtime before class starts, and scheduling longer homeroom periods. One of the many benefits of a PLC day at the high school is that students have 90 minutes before the start of the day allowing them to be more focused with their coursework. Having high school students meet with their guidance counselors to discuss if they are early morning learners and adjusting schedules was also an example of internal options. J. Blanchard mentioned a simple test that can be taken to indicate an individual’s optimal sleep/wake pattern.

J. Evans Davila gave an update on the Elementary “Special” Progress Reports. This year in Grades 3-4, Art, Music, Physical Education Progress Reports will be graded in the 2rd and 3rd trimester. The following year, Grades K-2 will also be graded in the same trimester .

It was reported that the Library Media Specialist, this year, are writing standards for grades 3 and 4 to be graded next year in trimesters 2 and 3.

Plans for the Assessment Work Group were discussed by J. Evans Davila. She explained how the group will walk thru protocol, asking what is the assessment, how many times a year is it given, how long does it take, what is used pen/pencil/computer and what is the data it yields. There will be closure by the

end of the day with recommendations. The C and C will be provided with this information they requested. The question does NWEA need to come back to help our teachers was asked. The response being yes for next year. Deeper training may possibly be needed. NWEA continuum is important.

Agenda suggestions for February 9, 2016, Outcome of Assessment Work Group, Status /update on Grade 5/6 Math and Math Plus, Honors Math/Honors Chemistry, J. Erardi's follow-up with All Star.

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn. M. Ku seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

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