

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Connecticut and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

J. Larkin J. Vouros K. Longobucco
D. Ramsey A. Marks A. Uberti

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 1/24/23 meeting.
D. Ramsey seconded the motion

Public Participation: None

Presentation of Myth & the Modern World – A. Marks, K. Longobucco

Abigail Marks gave an overview of the curriculum that was formerly called Modernism and Mythology, stating that the title did not clearly depict what was taught and therefore it was renamed. This is a senior English, half-year elective course. It is taught at the college prep and honors level and there is also a co-taught section. Approximately 100 students per year enroll in the course. Jim Rovello and Michelle Toby collaborated on the revision of the curriculum in order to incorporate the components of a concept-based curriculum as well as to ensure alignment with standards and differentiated assessments.

There are three units in the course:

Unit 1: Story & Archetype

Conceptual Lens - patterns and meaning

Ms. Marks noted that when the course is offered in the fall semester, students work on dreading the college essay that fits in nicely with the idea of storytelling.

Unit 2: The Hero with a Thousand Faces

Conceptual Lens - Systems and Agency

Unit 3: The Great Goddess

Conceptual Lens: Power & Perspective

K-4 Reading Update – A. Uberti

A. Uberti shared that she has now shifted to focus on completing the waiver for the CSDE and developing a comprehensive professional development for next year. She shared that she is in the process of developing the 23-24 school calendar and that it has been helpful to be able to create the calendar with the professional development needs in mind. Ideally, the professional

development for teachers in grades K-4 can be incorporated into the teachers' workdays since the alternative would bring significant cost to the district, as teachers must be paid at the rate of \$200 a day to attend summer training. This would be in addition to the cost of paying for the trainers. She reviewed the tentative professional development plan. Ms. Larkin requested that Ms. Uberti create an outline of the professional development. That outline is attached to the minutes.

There were no Assistant Superintendent updates.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

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

Tentative K-4 Reading PD Plan for 23-24

Timeline	Target Audience	Session Title	Session Description
April - June 2023			
Dates: 4/6, 4/20 2-3 Hours Virtual	Assistant Superintendent, Director of Teaching and Learning, Principals, Lead Teachers & Language Arts Consultants	Getting Started in the ILC	Session Description: This session is designed to successfully support teachers in the launch of Imagine Learning EL Education in the IL Classroom. Participants will be introduced to the digital resources and functionality available on the Imagine Learning Classroom platform through hands-on activities while reinforcing a higher-level understanding of the core principles of the EL Education Curriculum. Live Learn and digital assessment functionality will also be demonstrated.
Date: TBD	Language Arts Consultants, Directors of Teaching and Learning	Implementing EL Education K-4 as a Leader	Session Description: This workshop is designed for leaders to gain an awareness and understanding of the EL Curriculum. Leaders will have an opportunity to reflect on how they will support educators in their context.
May-June 2023	K-4 Teachers (including reading teachers)	Intro to EL	Session Description: Language Arts Consultants will participate in this session designed to introduce the core principles of the EL Curriculum to teachers and explore how it connects to the science of reading. Participants will have the opportunity to preview resources, reflect on the changes that will be required in their practice as well as to ask questions.
August			
Date: 8/25 2 hours, Virtual	K-4 Teachers (including reading teachers)	Getting Started in the ILC	Session Description: This session is designed to successfully support teachers in the launch of Imagine Learning EL Education in the IL Classroom. Participants will be introduced to the digital resources and functionality available on the Imagine Learning Classroom platform through hands-on activities while reinforcing a higher-level understanding of the core principles of the EL Education Curriculum. Live Learn and digital assessment functionality will also be demonstrated.
Date: 8/28 Full Day, In-Person	K-4 Teachers, School Leaders, Language Arts Consultants & Director of Teaching and Learning	Introduction to Modules - Parts 1 & 2	Session Description: After building the foundation of how and why the EL Curriculum was developed during the Launch Workshop, educators need time to build their understanding of the modules component. During this workshop, educators will define how modules are structured and how this supports students' literacy development. Educators will understand the specific components of each lesson and how they build to ensure success over time. By experiencing different components of the curriculum, educators will develop and internalize how lessons are structured and will have time to plan for intentional instruction.
September			
Date: 9/27 3 hours (Early Release)	K-2 Teachers	ILC Targeted Office Hours	Session Description: Each Office Hours session allows educators to choose from a list of our targeted support topics such as: site navigation, assigning lessons and assessments, grading and personalization features. Teachers can ask questions and receive targeted support around use of these features and functionality within the Imagine Learning Classroom by one of our Certified Professional Development Specialists. Topic: TBD
Date: 9/27 3 hours (Early Release)	3-4 Teachers, School Leaders, Language Arts Consultants & Director of Teaching and Learning	Intro to ALL Block - Part 1	Session Description: After building the foundation of the EL Curriculum during the Launch workshop, educators need time to build their understanding of the ALL Block structure and components. During this workshop, educators will experience an ALL Block rotation and explore how to use task cards to support students. Educators will synthesize their learning by creating a plan to organize materials and plan for future instruction.

October	
Date: 10/4 3 hours (Early Release)	K-2 Teachers, School Leaders, Language Arts Consultants & Director of Teaching and Learning
ILC Targeted Office Hours	Session Description: Each Office Hours session allows educators to choose from a list of our targeted support topics such as: site navigation, assigning lessons and assessments, grading and personalization features. Teachers can ask questions and receive targeted support around use of these features and functionality within the Imagine Learning Classroom by one of our Certified Professional Development Specialists. Topic: TBD
3-4 Teachers, School Leaders, Language Arts Consultants & Director of Teaching and Learning	Intro to ALL Block - Part 2
Session Description: After building the foundation of the EL Curriculum during the Launch workshop, educators need time to build their understanding of the ALL Block structure and components. During this workshop, educators will experience an ALL Block rotation and explore how to use task cards to support students. Educators will synthesize their learning by creating a plan to organize materials and plan for future instruction.	
November	
Date: TBD	Language Arts Consultants, Director of Teaching & Learning
ILC Targeted Office Hours	Session Description: Each Office Hours session allows educators to choose from a list of our targeted support topics such as: site navigation, assigning lessons and assessments, grading and personalization features. Teachers can ask questions and receive targeted support around use of these features and functionality within the Imagine Learning Classroom by one of our Certified Professional Development Specialists. Topic: TBD
November 7 Full day	K-4 Teachers and School Leaders
Strategic Planning for Modules	Session Description: The EL Education curriculum is robust and complex with many moving parts. As educators gain experience teaching the curriculum, they are better prepared to dig deeper into instructional practices and how to support students through strategic planning. During this workshop, educators will engage in concrete activities that will develop and deepen their understanding of the components of modules and how to strategically plan for lessons, units and modules based on assessment data that they bring. This workshop will focus on applying what educators already understand to go deeper into intentional planning and support the success of students.
December/January	
Date: TBD	School Leaders, Language Arts Consultants, Director of Teaching & Learning, Assistant Superintendent
Learning Walks for EL Education	Session Description: In this EL Education Learning Walk, leaders will have the opportunity to get into classrooms to learn about trends in how the curriculum is playing out for teachers and students. They will look for trends in the use of the curriculum materials, how students are accessing and engaging with the tasks, and how teachers are supporting students to become proficient readers and writers.