

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

J. Vouros D. Ramsey
J. Larkin A. Uberti

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 11/30/2021 meeting.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Review Curriculum Development Process – Anne Uberti

A. Uberti shared the Curriculum Development Guide (updated and Board approved in 2020) with Curriculum & Instruction subcommittee members. She provided an overview of the five phases of curriculum development: Needs Assessment and Determination of Work, Curriculum Development, Curriculum Approval Process, Implementation & Feedback and Evaluation. She explained that the process is continuous and that each year, the Curriculum Development Council reviews the process to consider improvements. A. Uberti also shared how curriculum writing is planned and budgeted for. Because projects are planned approximately 18 months in advance, there is often shifting due to unforeseen changes that may happen between the time a project is proposed and when it is actually scheduled to be worked on. She also noted that teachers must agree to write curriculum outside of the school day or school year and are paid according to their contractual rate.

A. Uberti explained that curriculum provides the foundation of what is taught and that content is approved by the Board of Education. In this regard, it is important for teachers to teach within the bounds of a Board-approved curriculum. Curriculum ensures that all students have access to the same opportunity to learn regardless of teacher or classroom. It is the primary responsibility of a teacher to implement the written curriculum. It is the principal's responsibility to monitor that implementation.

A. Uberti also reminded committee members that the curriculum model used in Newtown is Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction. Teachers who are writing curriculum are trained in the model and the curriculum writing team is assigned a coach to support and provide feedback during the curriculum writing process.

Updated Curriculum Approval Calendar – A. Uberti

An updated Curriculum Approval Calendar was shared with committee members. This calendar displays the stops a curriculum makes during the approval process: subject committee, Curriculum Development Council, C&I, BoE 1st Read leading to BoE Approval. She explained that curriculum would be made available to them in advance of the C&I meeting and it is expected that members review the curriculum in advance so that they are prepared to ask questions during the curriculum presentation.

Educlimber Overview

A. Uberti presented an overview of EduClimber. EduClimber is the District's new data platform that integrates data into usable visualizations. Some components of the platform are being developed this year such as the SRBI/MTSS module. In addition, groups of leaders from each of the schools are being trained this year. It is not yet being utilized by most teachers.

J. Larkin asked if A. Uberti could provide a timeline regarding the roll-out of EduClimber and she agreed to do so and present it at a future meeting along with another update on progress.

Assistant Superintendent Updates – A. Uberti

Students will have an early release on January 14th for teacher professional development. Teachers will be working with content/department/grade level PLCs.

A. Uberti shared that the December Curriculum and Instruction Update for parents had more than 2800 views.

Public Participation:

Mrs. Jennifer Padilla
32 Glen Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Ms. Padilla shared that she sees great potential for the use of EduClimber once it is fully implemented. She also shared that she was not surprised to see so many views on the C&I Update as attendance at BoE meetings is up and perhaps people are becoming more engaged in the issues.

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:06 P.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.

