

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

D. Ramsey J. Vouros L. McLean N. Justiniano
J. Larkin A. Uberti K. Longobucco J. Connors

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:02
J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 11/9/22 and 11/22/22 meetings.
D. Ramsey seconded the motion

Public Participation: None

Presentation of Weight Training – L. McLean, K. Longobucco

L. McLean provided an overview of the Weight Training curriculum. The class was changed to a full semester in order to help students meet the health requirement for graduation. The additional time is beneficial because students are able to see results over the longer time period. The Units are as follows:

- Physical Fitness
- Responsible Behavior
- Motor Skills
- Application of Lifetime Skills
-

The class can accommodate all levels of fitness and students are encouraged to set goals and work towards them. Students are also encouraged to assist each other by demonstrating and supporting proper techniques. Many students work in small groups; however, sometimes students prefer to work more independently. The course is a mix of males and females and it is very popular. The weight room is separate from the one used by the athletic department and it is very much like a typical gym one would attend privately or at on a college campus. Staff are also able to use the weight room before and after school.

Spanish 5/6 – N. Justiniano, J. Connors

N. Justiniano shared a brief presentation on both curriculums. N. Justiniano shared that most of the fifth grade curriculum was written by M. Grenier prior to Ms. Justiniano's hiring. She began writing the grade 6 curriculum the summer of 2021 and completed it this past summer. To the greatest degree possible, she tried to incorporate what students are studying in their other classes into the Spanish curriculum. There is a heavy focus on geography.

Grade 5 Units:

- Getting to Know Ourselves
- The Planets (Sun, Moon, Earth and Beyond)
- Holidays, Traditions, & Customs
- Central America, The Caribbean, & Mexico
- Spanish Speaking Countries in South America
- Spain, Mallorca, Menorca, & The Canary Islands
- The Migration of Latino Cultures into the U.S.
- FLES Research Project

Grade 6 – focuses on preparing students for language study in middle school. There is a lot more activity around speaking, reading and writing. It is still basic, because the students are still novice learners.

Grade 6 Units:

- Review of 5th Grade Spanish
- My School
- Compassion, Kindness and Empathy

- “Cuando soy mayor”- Expansion on occupations
- En el restaurant

N. Justiniano shared that most of the instruction is delivered in Spanish with a lot of repetition to help students acquire the vocabulary.

J. Connors added that she has been in the class and N. Justiniano speaks Spanish to the students the entire class. Students really understand the everyday tasks when spoken to them in Spanish.

Anne Uberti added that there the K-6 Spanish program incorporates a great deal of learning about Spanish culture throughout the world. Teachers have been given opportunities to meet in vertical teams to further discuss curriculum and instruction as well as student learning.

Assistant Superintendent Updates:

Before and After School programs at the elementary and middle schools have completed their first cycle.

Tomorrow is The Tenth Anniversary of the tragedy at Sandy Hook. It is a Professional Development day for staff. Students will not be in school.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:55 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.