

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

J. Larkin J. Vouros G. Hall A. Uberti
D. Ramsey J. Ross K. Longobucco

Minutes from the Board of Education Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 2/14/23 meeting.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Presentation of Multivariable Calculus – G. Hall, K. Longobucco

G. Hall gave an update on the course starting with the pathway of how you get to Multivariable Calculus in your senior year, most students start in Algebra I in grade 7 and Algebra II in grade 8. Follow thru with that progression at the high school.

There are 5 units in the course:

Unit 1: Vectors and the Geometry of Space

Lens: Representation

Unit 2: Vector Valued Functions

Lens: Functions

Unit 3: Functions of Several Variables

Lens: Function

Unit 4: Multiple Integrals

Lens: Connection

Unit 5: Vector Analysis

Lens: Analysis

G. Hall share that although the mathematical concepts don't change, technology has changed how the course is taught. K. Longobucco added that it is important to keep up to date with the use of platforms to keep students current. They may not be using the same platforms as they will use in college but having this experience will help prepare them.

J. Larkin asked if students ever struggle with the content, given that they are highly advanced in mathematics. G. Hall responded that yes, sometimes students struggle and that they may need to do more practice in class as well as support students individually more than others.

A. Uberti added that this is an excellent example of differentiation in meeting the needs of high achieving students. She also added that the work that has been done in the past few years to achieve strong vertical alignment in mathematics has been very beneficial.

WIN Block at Newtown Middle School – J. Ross (What I Need) = Student

J. Ross provided an overview of the WIN (What I Need) block at the Middle School. The staff had been looking for ways to support students in the development of dispositions that help middle school students navigate academic and social experiences. A review of data, including students earning Ds and Fs, homework completion rates, performance on standardized measures, and the number counseling visits all pointed to a need to provide sometime more for students. In order to address that, WIN I and WIN II were developed by staff.

WIN I is explicit instruction and learning activities that support the the SEL for a successful middle school student including executive function skills, study skills, and good student habits.

WIN II is more of a structured study hall. Students have an opportunity to get started on work on daily homework, longer-term projects, finish labs and practice skills using one of the online platforms available to them. During this time, teachers support students as a means of teaching them how to use their time efficiently.

The feedback so far has been very positive. Teachers feel that this block is helping student learn to use their time productively.

[WIN Presentation Slides](#)

Anne Uberti explained that WIN was part of a schedule redesign a couple of years ago. The lessons were developed last summer and are being piloted in both 7th and 8th grade this year. They will work on 8th grade lessons this year.

[WIN Course Description](#)

Assistant Superintendent Update – A. Uberti

A. Uberti shared that professional development was held on Wednesday, March 16th. This is the final para professional development session for the year. Based on prior feedback, the format of the sessions was designed to be choice boards. The paras had a variety of options to choose from ranging from team-building activities to self-care to the science of reading. They had the opportunity to have lunch

together and connect as teams. A feedback form was sent out following the session and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

A. Uberti also shared that she is busy preparing for summer curriculum work and that she hopes to have a list of projects to be worked on in the coming weeks.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:20 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.