

**Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee**

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

M. Ku	A. Uberti	L. Rodrigue
J. Vouros	F. Purcaro	E. Hall

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 5/26/2020 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

L. Rodrigue gave an update on the District's commitment to honoring our diversity and supporting efforts towards equity. She will be utilizing her group, PEAC, to support the work.

She discussed ways to embrace student voices as part of how curriculum is reviewed. M. Ku asked how C&I would be a part of that.

Anne Uberti stated that we are looking into some kind of student advisory that would discuss curricular topics that could be addressed through the existing curriculum development process. More information will be brought forward as a plan is developed.

K-5 Math Pilot Update-Frank Purcaro

We are piloting two math resources in K5 one is Bridges and Envision Math 2020 which were selected after a comprehensive review of available programs. Both programs were reviewed by EdReports.org and received high ratings in focusing the major work of each grade and being coherent and consistent with the Common Core Standards, rigorous implementation of mathematical practices and teacher usability. Both programs offers a combination of digital and print resources and were selected because they brought math alive in the real world. Both pilot groups, twenty teachers in all, are underway in grades K through 5 with training provided to all prior to the start of the school year. Math consultants in all schools are involved and providing ongoing support to teachers. Feedback will be sought throughout the year with an additional training sometime around January. Looking to have a final decision on a recommendation in early spring.

Review of New Digital Resources-Frank Purcaro

Three new online digital resources have been added for this year: IXL, Lexia K-8 (K5 core –Intervention and Enrichment, 6-8 Power Up -Intervention) and RazPlus (Learning A to Z). All programs can be used to supplement existing curriculum and allow for opportunities when students are learning remotely. Each program has a different purpose and audience.

Supporting Teachers-Frank Purcaro/Anne Uberti

Given the challenges brought on by the demands of teaching to students in person and remotely, Anne and Frank have sought ways to provide ongoing support. Instructional advisory groups were organized this summer and gave critical input on aspects of synchronous teaching and what would be needed for success. There were groups at

each grade level and they offered assistance in testing out the technology prior to the start of the year. The groups will continue to meet with Anne and Frank to offer feedback. Anne and Frank expressed their gratitude for their assistance and credited the team work approach for synchronous teaching launching successfully.

Anne and Frank also plan to continue utilizing building walkthroughs to gather anecdotal information to help support teachers. This week they have been visiting Kindergartens in each school to see how teachers were managing to support play through center time. So far, observations have been positive with students happy and engaged in play that was being monitored and managed so students were safe. In October, Frank is planning to resume the elementary cross-grade level meetings that he supported in the spring. These were helpful in keeping the four elementary buildings consistent.

Middle School Schedule Redesign-Anne Uberti

Tom Einhorn and Jim Ross have established a middle school schedule redesign group with the hopes of building a schedule from the ground up. Anne and Frank are members of the committee with the first meeting scheduled for this Thursday. The committee includes staff members representing a variety of roles, as well as a parent. The committee will begin by exploring what the staff values and what are “must-haves” in a new schedule. The goal is to have a rough draft of the 21-22 schedule early in the budget season so that any budget implications can be brought forward in the NMS budget proposal.

2020-2021 Curriculum Approval Calendar

Anne stated that 29 curricula were finalized this summer. She then shared a draft approval calendar for October through January.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:32a.m.

M. Ku seconded the motion

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Norling

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

