

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

J. Vouros D. Ramsey A. Uberti

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

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

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 10/24/2023 meeting.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Change in Kindergarten Start Age – Anne Uberti

New Legislation was passed to change the start date for Kindergartners. The students need to be 5 years of age by September 1st. A. Uberti and D. Petersen (Director of Special Education) have been working together on a response. Parents whose children will not be 5 prior to September 1st and who want their child to begin Kindergarten may request their child be given an assessment to determine if the child is developmentally ready to start kindergarten. The state has not provided guidance as to what measure should be used, other than it be a valuable and reliable. Plans have already been made to open Kindergarten registration early this year, beginning January 8th. Since registration occurs online, parents who are registering a child who will not be 5 by September 1, will be asked to check a box which will serve as their written request that their child be screened to determine eligibility. Kindergarten screening will also be moved up to mid-February. All children will go through the screening process regardless of their chronological age. According to the law if a child is registered and not 5 years old is assessed and the assessment shows that the child is not developmentally ready to attend kindergarten, the district can turn that registration down. Then the parent would have to re-register the child when that child is of age the following school year.

A. Uberti explained that she will be presented to the Board of Education next Tuesday a plan that would create a Kindergarten Readiness program that would accommodate those children. She believes that doing so would benefit the families, the district and ultimately the children who would participate in a program that would meet their developmental needs.

Certified Staff- Prof. Dev. Update-Anne Uberti

Over 400 certified employees participated in professional learning on November 7th. There are many different roles within the group of certified staff and careful planning ensures that all staff are matched with valuable professional learning opportunities. Teachers in grades K-5 spent the day in strategic

planning sessions with EL Imagine Learning trainers. Grade level colleagues were grouped with their own presenter and teachers reported this was extremely beneficial. At the high school, the entire staff engaged in professional learning related to Portrait of a Graduate. This was also well-received.

Paraprofessional Prof. Dev. Update-Anne Uberti

On October 18th, K-8 paras received in-person, mandated training on human trafficking awareness and prevention. This training is a state requirement. High school paras will complete the same training on November 15th. All paras will have one more day of PD on March 21st.

Assistant Superintendent Update-Anne Uberti

D. Ramsey asked about the DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion) training that was held recently. A. Uberti shared that the session on October 23 was led by Jana Briggs and LaTonya Miller of Nixon & Company and focused on creating welcoming and supportive spaces and understanding the dimensions of diversity. Each school's DEAI team attended, along with the building principal.

Public Participation – None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:53 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.