

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

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting on July 23, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.

J. Vouros
M. Ku

J. Erardi
L. Gejda
K. Ostar
E. Holst-Grubbe
L. Saladin

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Erardi discussed his goals and priorities for 2014-2015 school year in regards to curriculum.

A discussion was held on how often the committee would meet and report back to the Board of Education.

Dr. Linda Gejda asked to have an agenda item added to the meeting: Marketing Textbooks.

Dr. Gejda thanked the high school staff members for attending the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves - Erik Holst-Grubbe, BEAT Department Chair; Cathy Ostar, Director of Guidance and Larry Saladin, social studies teacher.

Mr. Holst-Grubbe asked the subcommittee to consider purchasing 24 new textbooks, *Culinary Essentials*, for the Culinary Classroom. The textbooks would be kept in the classroom for use by the following classes –Culinary 1, Culinary 2, Baking and Pastry and Advanced Culinary. Two teacher copies were also requested. The textbook, written by Johnson and Wales University, aligns with the National Common Core Standards. The textbook shows specific ways the students can break down vocabulary, comes with a CD/DVD, students have access to online materials, it also contains reading, social studies and math quizzes along with premade activities. A discussion was held on the culinary classes at the high school and how students can receive up to 12 credits from Johnson and Wales University upon completion of these courses. Further discussion followed about how many students are currently taking culinary courses and how many students follow on in a culinary career path. Students also get experience that helps to build their resume for a job or a “standout factor”.

Mr. Holst-Grubbe asked the subcommittee to consider purchasing 20 new textbooks, *Marketing Essentials*, for the Business Department. The textbooks would be kept in the classroom for use by the following classes – Marketing 1 and Marketing 2. The current textbooks are outdated and do not reflect recent changes in the way marketers do business due to the use of the internet and social media. Today marketing has a much more global scope due to technology. This textbook was approved by DECA, a

national and international organization on business education. A discussion was held on what students do after taking this course. Some students are on an entrepreneurial path and learn how to develop a business marketing plan while others continue onto college.

Mr. Holst-Grubbe asked the subcommittee to consider Advanced Auto as a pilot course. This course is currently offered as an independent study for students who have completed Auto 1 and Auto 2. The course would involve more difficult projects and includes assisting other students in Auto 1 and Auto 2. A discussion followed about the career path students continue onto after taking auto courses in high school. Ms. Ostar stated she would like to see student receive credit for work they are currently completing in this independent study.

Mr. Saladin asked the subcommittee to consider continuing the Western Philosophy pilot course for one more year. The Western Philosophy course was offered last year to students at the high school. Mr. Saladin said the he used current events and independent articles to generate conversation for the class. He found the students, who were all at different levels of learning, benefited from each other's questions.

Karin Sherman, the high school's Math Department Chair, could not attend the subcommittee meeting. She submitted a request for textbooks for the College Prep Statistics Course. Dr. Gejda will have Ms. Sherman write a brief summary as to why the books will be beneficial for this course. Dr. Gejda will also ask Ms. Sherman to be available for the next subcommittee meeting for any follow up questions.

A discussion took place as to when the committee will meet again. A decision was made to meet on August 5th at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.