

Board of Education  
Newtown, CT  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education C and I Subcommittee meeting held on May 26, 2016. BOE Conference Room 3 Primrose Street.

J. Vouros      M. Ku      J. Davila      S. Earle      L. Rodrigue

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:05

Motion: J. Vouros motioned to approve the minutes from May 10, 2016. M. Ku approved

Public Participation: none

S. Earle gave an update on 2015-2016 Project Challenge stating that gifted education was provided by two full-time and two part-time teachers of the gifted. Identified students in grades four through six participated in a series of planned activities based on the Project Challenge curriculum. Additionally, 90 third graders and 90 fourth graders participated in weekly math enrichment activities. Creative thinking lessons were conducted in all fourth grade mainstream classes. Creative and critical thinking lessons were conducted in all third grade classes. Also this year, all fourth grade students were given the opportunity to participate in Personalized Learning/Genius Hour. Students worked on personally designed projects that incorporated research, technology and presentation skills. Program options offered included 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders participating in the WordMaster Challenge program Gold Division, 5<sup>th</sup> graders exploring leadership and logic topics, 6<sup>th</sup> graders learn deductive and inductive reasoning and divergent thinking. Middle school students took the PST in the fall in preparation of the SAT and highly competitive summer programs thru John Hopkins and Stanford University. A six week parent education class based on How to Parent So Children will Learn by Sylvia Rimm was received well with requests to repeat the session in the fall of 2016. A district website and a Project Challenge Report Card were created for parents.

L. Rodrigue presented the Freshman Partnership for Advanced Learning brochure to the subcommittee explaining the criteria students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade must follow to apply for the STEM partnership. The application process required teacher recommendations for both Honors Biology and Honors Geometry or Algebra II and a short essay. Thirty students have applied from middle school and all have been accepted into the program. An additional four students applied after the deadline and are on the waiting list. All thirty students will be a cohort for the next four years. Course offerings include Introduction to Engineering Design (Project Lead the Way), Honors Biology and Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra II.

FLES update was given by J. Davila explaining that two district interns will be working this summer to enter into Rubicon the Grade K-1-2 Spanish Curriculum. Once entered, it will be presented to the C and I Subcommittee and the Board of Education. Instruction will occur in grades K and 1 in all schools for 30 minutes per week during the Content block.

Public Participation: none

Next C and I meeting: TBD (2 weeks would be June 9<sup>th</sup>)

Adjourned: 11:15

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

*These are draft minutes and are subject to the approval of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee*