

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

J. Larkin J. Vouros C. Canfield K. Longobucco J. Ross
D. Ramsey B. Berechid C. Carley M. Hiscavich L. Hildebrant K. Ladue

Minutes from the Board of Education Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 3/21/2023 meeting.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Presentation of Chemistry CPA & Honors - B. Berechid, C. Carley, C. Canfield, K. Longobucco

B. Berechid explained that the curriculum was revised to meet the requirements of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as well as to put the units into the Concept-based format approved by the district. She provided an overview of each of the units as well as the conceptual lens for each:

Unit 1 Chemistry Skills
Lens: Scientific Method

Unit 2 Energy
Lens: Transformation

Unit 3 Matter
Lens: Changes in matter

Unit 4 Atomic Structure
Lens: Properties

Unit 5 Periodic Law
Lens: Patterns

Unit 6 Chemical Bonding
Lens: Interactions

Unit 7 Chemical Reactions
Lens: Change

Unit 8 The Mole & Stoichiometry
Lens: Conversion

Unit 9 Aqueous Solutions

Lens: Interactions

Unit 10 Acid and Bases

Lens: Interactions

Unit 11 Gasses

Lens: Behavior

Unit 12 Organic Chemistry and Polymers

Lens: Properties

D. Ramsey commented on how it was very inspiring to see the high school students visit with the middle school students working on Applied Science.

NMS Art Course Change Proposal* - M. Hiscavich, J. Ross, L. Hildebrant, K. Ladue

This proposal was mistakenly listed as Music in the agenda.

L. Hildebrant and K. Ladue provided an overview of the current Middle School art courses. The proposal would phase Art Enrichment out for both 7th and 8th grade. Instead, all 7th and 8th graders would be offered General Art. 8th graders would also be offered 2D Studio Art and 3D Studio Art. They further explained that there has been a drop in the number of students seeking to participate in Art Enrichment, in spite of efforts to generate interest. This plan would allow students in 7th grade to be introduced to 2D and 3D in order to increase participation. Additionally, this would align better with the high school and the goal would be that it increases the numbers of students enrolled in art courses at the high school level.

L. Hildebrant and K. Ladue shared that middle school students were surveyed and 48% expressed interest in a 2D option and 53% were interested in a 3D option. Altogether, 57% were interested in one or the other.

The presenters requested that this request be brought to the Board for approval so that they can implement this for next year.

See the link below for more information on the courses:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tOf6nqEz9iijnlsM6tYksTDS2EEXuZDFexvqAFepUS4/edit?usp=sharing>

Reading Curriculum Planning Updates – A. Uberti

A. Uberti is continuing work with ELA consultants at Reed and Middle School to look at the possibility of a pilot of one of two reading programs for next year. Most of the options that are highly rated by EdReports have already been looked at for K-4 and were ruled out. K. Bartolo and A. Uberti had a preliminary meeting with the representatives, EL Imagine Learning and Into Literature to consider them

for a possible 5-8 pilot. The next step will be having the vendors come in to meet with teachers. She will provide an update at the next C&I meeting.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:27 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.