

**Newtown Board of Education
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470
Minutes from April 6, 2017 Meeting**

Present: J. Evans Davila, M. Ku, L. Rodrigue and J. Vouros (J. McEvoy, Recording Secretary)

Item 1: J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

Item 2: J. Vouros made a motion to approve the March 16, 2017 minutes and M. Ku seconded.

Item 3: Public Participation: None

Item 4: Discussion of proposed new Senior Experience course offering at Newtown High School.

- Lorrie Rodrigue gave the C & I Committee an overview of the proposed Senior Experience which would begin with next year's freshman class, who will graduate in 2021.
- Fits perfectly with Newtown Public School's mission - "to *inspire each student to excel* in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community".
- There will be Senior Experience seminars every year except senior year. Wix and Google Classroom will be used for organization. Freshmen will have a seminar for this course every 9 days (taking place of study hall or free period).
- Seminars will: For *freshman*, provide deeper understanding of contents and skills and give them a voice and choice on what they might want to focus on. For *sophomores*, help them to refine ideas, narrow topics, and write letter of intent. For *juniors*, give them the opportunity to outline resources needed to accomplish research and reach out to advisor and possible mentors. (Students need to find and set up their own mentor – not feasible for school to do it.) For *seniors*, allow them to be self-directed and work to finalize their project. It will be independent work with no formal advisory.
- There will be a Gallery showing at the end of senior year and all students will be invited to attend. The Senior Experience presentation will be their final and students won't have to attend school after they're finished.
- Committee asked about a potential budget? Lorrie said that there are three stipends for teachers for Jr./Sr. Projects currently and those can be used for Senior Experience next year. Will also build this into teachers' schedules as much as possible.
- Lorrie wants Senior Experience to be required for every student. One credit course that would break out as follows: .25 for sophomores; .25 for juniors, .50 for seniors – none for freshmen. Jean to find out the process to change NHS graduation credit requirement – currently at 23 credits. Senior Experience would make it 24 credits.
- Would like Senior Experience to be Pass/Fail (and to have Pass with Distinction). Students will wear a special sash at graduation – different colored cord depending on the field.
- Need to know how to get approval for this before the end of the year. Lorrie needs to start communicating this to incoming freshman and their parents. C & I Committee stated that she needs to ask for a new course and a change to graduation standards.
- Lorrie must return for the April 21, 2017 C & I Committee Meeting at 11:30 am and present the "official" Senior Experience course request to them. Then present it to the Board of Education on May 2, 2017. Jean will get the correct form for this to Lorrie.

Item 6 Public Participation: None

Item 7 J. Vouros motioned to adjourn the C & I Subcommittee Meeting at 2:00 pm and M. Ku seconded.

Next meeting: Friday, April 21st at 11:30 am