

Board of Education  
Newtown, CT  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on August 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Education conference room, 3 Primrose Street.

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| J. Vouros   | M. Ku     | J. Erardi |
| C. Canfield | J. Davila |           |

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Ku moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2015. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Ku and Mr. Vouros moved the Newtown High School Science: Chemistry, Biology, IPES and Physics forward to the Board for a first read.

Chris Canfield discussed NHS override practices. Currently, at the high school level there is a form that is required. Overrides for movement between levels are generally accepted, often with counseling. For an override to be accepted, all course prerequisites need to be met. C. Canfield stated there are approximately 20 requests for overrides in the science department per year. When a student requests an override and struggles, this is not beneficial to the student or the teacher since it slows the pace for everyone. His sense is that while most students who move up a level do not fail, they also may not get the A's they are accustomed to getting.

Students can move back to their original course or seek science help if struggling.

There was discussion about whether the High School practice is consistent with the rest of the district. Dr. Erardi and J. Davila will target January 1, 2016 for written recommendation regarding the practice for overrides in the district.

M. Ku referred to previous discussion and presentation about the alignment of the K-12 science curriculum. J. Erardi spoke to the benefits of the district's math self-study and suggested that J. Davila facilitate a Science K-12 Self Study, done this year with a presentation to the Board. He feels this would be beneficial to everyone.

A "Freshman Academy of Excellence" for highly capable students was discussed, including the need for multifaceted selection criteria to be in place for this 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy. Students must be highly capable with a strong work ethic. Dr. Erardi would like to look at other districts using similar models and explore the possibilities within a Long-Term Planning Committee .

A change in school start times could also fall under the long-term planning committee discussion agenda. Dr. Erardi feels if it's better for the student then we should explore the possibilities.

It was agreed that the future C and I Subcommittee will be meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of every month for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mrs. Ku moved to adjourn. Mr. Vouros seconded at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Schaedler