

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020.

M. Ku A. Uberti
J. Vouros

Also present Board of Education member Deborra Zukowski.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Anne Uberti shared the following updates on SEL Practices:

- Lead teachers and APs will be working together to create a continuum of expected behavior and to develop consistent guidelines regarding consequences and documentation of behavior/disciplinary incidents.
- Trainers from the Committee for Children will be in district on February 6 & 7 to provide additional training on the use of Second Step. This is part of an implementation grant that the district received. Trainers will be meeting with the elementary, intermediate and middle school principals to discuss implementation challenges and how the district can better utilize data from the Panorama SEL Survey.
- Principals will be identifying 1 or 2 staff members from their schools to become Restorative Practices trainers. The goal is to provide the prerequisite training during the current school year so that they can participate in the trainer session next fall. Once this group has been trained, a plan to train all staff over the next three to five years will be developed.
- The four elementary counselors, along with two behavioral paraprofessionals from MGS and HAW are currently enrolled in Mindful Schools Fundamentals and will be following that with the Mindful Educator Essentials training. These courses teach strategies to integrate and adapt mindfulness into the classroom as well as to allow them to utilize the research-backed K-12 Mindful Schools Curriculum.

Anne Uberti shared the following updates on professional development offerings in district:

- Sue Palma from Ed Advance will provide several professional development sessions to all teachers of math in grades K-8. The focus will be on strategies teachers can utilize to develop students' understanding and use of the Standards of Mathematical Practices. Mrs. Palma will be in district once a month, January thru April, and will work with two grade levels per visit.
- Ninth grade science teachers are currently working with The Connecticut Science Center on integrating NGSS into the courses they teach. The trainer is facilitating a lesson study process. The lesson study process involves several teachers working together to collaboratively plan, teach, observe, revise and share the results of a single class lesson.
- Over 20 teachers, representing each level of schools, attended an informational session on participating in a cohort that would earn national certification for STEM teaching. The certification supports teachers'

development of effective STEM instruction through an evidence-based instructional framework. Teachers can earn up to 6 credits by completing the requirements for certification. These credits can then be applied towards a masters or doctorate degree from the American College of Education. The district will defray the cost for teachers who complete the certification program and there will be an expectation that those teachers will share their professional learning within their own schools.

K-8 Language Arts Specialists met several times since the start of the school year to work on the development of a consistent writing rubric based on the expectations of the Common Core Standards. The rubrics are designed to be used during instruction and will allow for the collection of common and consistent data across levels.

Assistant Superintendent Updates:

Anne Uberti shared a copy of the updated curriculum approval calendar.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.