

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, in the BOE Conference Room.

Present:	Jean Evans Davila	Lorrie Rodrigue
	John Vourros	Kim Longobucco
	Michelle Ku	Eizabeth Ward
		Veronica Egas

J. Vourros called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.

M. Ku moved to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2018, meeting.

J. Vourros seconded the motion.

Public Participation – None.

Approval of the C & I Meeting Calendar

J. Davila proposed changing the starting time of future meetings to 10:15 a.m. in order to ensure availability of the BOE Conference Room. M. Ku and J. Vourros agreed that C & I Meetings now will occur between the hours of 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

K. Longobucco, E. Ward, V. Egas provided an update on the new Spanish 1A (Hybrid) course. E. Ward stated that the course launch is progressing as planned. Both E. Ward and D. Roach have observed teacher V. Egas instructing the class, and they reported successful incorporation of Rosetta Stone resources in combination with teacher to student and student to student dialogue and interaction. E. Ward explained that assessments for the course were developed to focus on speaking skills and real life application of the language. The goal of this course is to mimic natural language acquisition. V. Egas described the manner in which she evaluates students' skill development and differentiates instruction. E. Ward described the parent signature form, that grants permission for recording students in the language lab for educational purposes only. When asked about class size, V. Egas responded that 14 students are in one of the classes and 10 students are in the other. K. Longobucco provided an anecdotal observation that three students with dyslexia have found that the integration of technology with use of Rosetta Stone has created conditions for success with these specific students in comparison to their prior experience as world language learners. M. Ku asked about the balance between computer time versus teacher instruction in this course. V. Egas described her current routine of providing approximately 30 minutes of instruction that requires them to apply skills authentically. For example, the students might be required to greet one another in the target language, or they might be asked to interact with new knowledge on a topic like "the family unit" as a supplement to the work they are doing on the computer. Additionally, E. Ward demonstrated the use of Pear Deck as additional digital

resource that staff is using to customize and individualize assessment and support student practice of language concepts and skills. V. Egas and L. Ward provided a sample of the consumable, spiral bound workbooks the World Language Department has put together using digital resources from Rosetta Stone that supplements audio and verbal practice with written exercises. Dr. Rodrigue asked how far the students can progress to other course levels using Rosetta Stone as a resource. V. Egas responded that there are 20 units in Rosetta Stone, with our Spanish 1A (Hybrid) course requiring completion of units 1 through 4, and Spanish 1B requiring units 5 -8. Together these two courses meet the college entrance requirement of 1 full year of language study at the high school level. In Newtown Public Schools, the graduation requirement for World Languages is 2 years. Presently, E. Ward has initiated discussion with Newtown Middle School teachers of World Language regarding recommendation of students for the Spanish 1A Hybrid and Spanish 1B Hybrid courses, and this will be a developing discussion with NMS Coordinator Michelle Steeves. J. Evans Davila inquired about future opportunities to expand world language offerings using Rosetta Stone, and E. Ward confirmed that this can help generate student excitement in the World Explorations course, as well as the French Club. On a related note, J. Evans Davila asked how E. Ward is progressing with her efforts to promote student interest in attaining the Seal of Bi-Literacy upon graduation. E. Ward reported that 18 students are currently signed up and will be taking the assessment. J. Evans Davila stated interest in asking E. Ward to return to C & I in February 2019 for an update on the promotion of efforts to assist students in earning the Seal of Bi-Literacy.

J. Evans Davila confirmed that next C & I Meeting is planned for January 10, 2019. It was agreed that the agenda would focus on an update on the new STEM course at Reed Intermediate School and Project Lead the Way at Newtown Middle School, with Principal Anne Uberti and Principal Tom Einhorn present.

Public Participation-None

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by Donna Norling

These draft minutes are subject to the approval of the C & I Committee.