

Newtown Board of Education  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on December 9, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in the BOE Conference Room.

J. Vouros M. Ku J. Evans Davila B. Hart M. Hallak T. Einhorn J. Ross  
P. Kohn S. Strait A. Marks N. Papalia I. Silveira C. Moretti

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

J. Vouros made a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2016. M. Ku seconded

Public participation: None

B. Hart and M. Hallak, NMS Math Co-ordinators, spoke about the process in selecting HMH *Big Ideas* as their new text for middle school children. She explained that this search has extended across five years during which time the teachers had determined that they needed to wait until publishers were able to offer materials that would align with the Common Core. They started to pilot the resources in the Fall of 2015 and found that standards are clearly referenced throughout all textbooks and organized in a manner which allows for scaffolding of concepts and skills, activities that promote higher-order thinking as well as computational fluency and problem solving.

Resources provided for teacher use in instruction include STEM videos to introduce lessons, games for learning, pacing guide, vocabulary flash cards. Teachers can use the online/digital edition to access full complement of *Big Ideas* textbooks/resources to individualize, differentiate and personalize instruction. There are also performance assessments for each standard or unit of study.

In addition, NMS SpEd teachers found that the use of the publisher's SmartBoard activities gave students hands-on learning experiences that promoted student engagement.

The faculty was polled after the pilot with unanimous decision to recommend the text for adoption consideration.

Leaders for the ELA- Self-Study Group: P. Kohn, S. Strait, A. Marks, N. Papalia , L. Silveira, and C. Moretti were present to discuss the upcoming self-study that they will be overseeing. Each leader will seek an additional person for help with the study. The Board is interested in knowing "How are we doing?"

"How do you know we are doing well?" "What did the NEASC study show? It was suggested to build off of the other schools but do not compare with other districts. Investigate how Language Arts is taught at each grade level, transition years from RIS to MS and MS to HS. Are elementary students coming to RIS all on the same level? Are we working toward an alignment with all elementary schools?

The group has been encouraged to research everything they are doing, regardless of whether they are doing it well or struggling. The Self-Study Group will report back to the C and I Subcommittee on March 17, 2017.

Public participation: None

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn. M Ku seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

*These are draft minutes and subject to approval by the C and I Subcommittee*