

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

J. Larkin J. Vouros K. Eppley A. Uberti
D. Ramsey A. Cirella J. Ross

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the minutes from the 2/8/2022 meeting.

D. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Presentation : Computer Integration 7 & 8 – A. Cirella

Austin Cirella presented an overview of Computer Integration for grades 7 & 8.

Presented were the Units of Computer Integration Grade 7:

- Digital Citizenship & Online Safety
- Basic Photo Editing and Video Production
- Intro to Coding

Presented were the Units of Computer Integration Grade 8:

- Coding
- Robotics & Coding
- Computer Hardware & Basic Troubleshooting

Presentation: Technology Education 7 & 8 – K. Eppley

Kevin Eppley presented an overview of Technology Education for grades 7 & 8.

Presented were the Units of Technology Education Grade 7:

- What is Technology
- Patterns, Forces and Measurement
- Transformation of Energy

Presented were the Units of Technology Education Grade 8:

- What is Engineering
- Aerodynamics and Transportation
- Electrical Engineering

This curriculum will be presented to the Board of Education for a first read on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Assistant Superintendent Update – A. Uberti

Professional development will be offered to all district paras on Thursday, March 17, 2022. A. Uberti has collaborated with the director and supervisors of special education to plan a variety of offerings for the para staff. Sessions are presented by certified staff with knowledge and experience in specific areas. Session topics include strategies for promoting student independence, de-escalation techniques, supporting students on the autism spectrum, supporting students with executive functioning and attention deficits, implementing behavior plans and strategies for supporting English language learners.

The winter administration of i-Ready has been completed and reports were mailed home to parents. I-Ready is new to the district this year. It was first given in the fall and this second session provides us with growth data for the first time. A. Uberti and F. Purcaro have been training the leadership teams of each school, K through 8, in analyzing the data and creating action plans. The expectation is that those teams bring that same training back to their staff.

The results of the i-Ready seem to confirm that there has been some learning loss due to the disruptions of the past two years. Due to the number of students who need additional support, it is imperative that teachers are equipped with the tools to provide instruction in the specific areas that students need. i-Ready provides many such tools for teachers to use in order to provide tailored instruction for classes, groups and individuals. Since i-Ready was launched as a pilot this year, teachers were not mandated to use the instructional tools. However, now that they have had time to better understand the results of the assessment, we are focusing our efforts on training and supporting the teachers' use of the instructional tools it offers. On a positive note, i-Ready also indicates that there has been tremendous growth since the beginning of the year so we are confident that, in time, we will be able to return students to their pre-pandemic learning levels.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.
J. Larkin seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

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

