

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, October 18, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Faith Ham (Chair) and Anne Harrigan

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal - Cheshire High School (CHS); Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Sean McKeown, CTE Department Chair - CHS; Julie Barker, Science Department Chair - CHS

Community Members Present: No community members present

1. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. Review Minutes of [May 10, 2021](#) & [September 13, 2021](#) Meeting

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2021 and September 13, 2021 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meetings. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham, and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 and September 13, 2021 meetings, and the motion passed.

3. New Business

a. CHS Program of Study Changes 2022-2023

Dr. Maureen Reed and Dr. Mary Gadd presented the proposed updates to the 2022-23 CHS Program of Study. The proposed changes include

- New courses: AP Research; AP/ECE Microeconomics; Elementary Discrete Mathematics UConn ECE; Health and Education in Urban Communities; DE Manufacturing Machining Principles (NVCC); Digital Art; Mastery Based Performance Class; Musical Theater; and African American, Black, Latino, and Puerto Rican Studies
- Deleted courses: Economics 100 ECE; DE Manufacturing CAD/CAM (NVCC); DE Manufacturing Fundamentals AT0701 and AT0702; Programming
- Courses with level changes: Accounting II (CCP to Dual Enrollment)

b. New Textbook Recommendations

- Inspire Earth Science, by Dr. Francisco Borrero et al

Julie Barker presented a new textbook request for Earth Science CP and CCP.

Design relative to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), literacy supports, and appropriate online resources were some of the important considerations for recommending the text.

Anne Harrigan made a motion to forward the Inspire Earth Science textbook request to the full Board of Education for consideration. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

- Precision Machining Technology, by Hoffman/Hopewell
Sean McKeown presented a new textbook request for DE Manufacturing Fundamentals (NVCC) and DE Manufacturing Machining Principles (NVCC). This is the text that is used in the Advanced Manufacturing Certificate program at NVCC. It has postsecondary readability which matches the credit for this course.

Anne Harrigan made a motion to forward the Precision Machining Technology textbook request to the full Board of Education for consideration. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

4. Informational Items

a. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trip

- Dodd Middle School - Washington, DC - May 25-27, 2022

Marlene Silano gave an overview of the annual eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. The trip will be from May 25 through May 27, 2022 and students will visit sites that link to the grade 8 Social Studies curriculum. Last year's trip included planning for Covid protocols and the trip was successful. This year, any protocols will be based on the status of Covid at the time of the trip.

b. Coaching Institute

Marlene Silano shared that 13 teacher leaders, 5 building administrators, Kevin Hanlon, and Marlene Silano attended a 3 day Coaching Institute hosted by the Connecticut Center for School Change (now Partners for Educational Leadership). The emphasis on coaching is part of the district plan to reinvest back in our own professionals. All of the coaches are current teachers/teacher leaders in the school district from elementary, middle and high school levels. The team that attended the institute will meet monthly as a community of practice throughout the year and will attend one more session hosted by the Partners for Educational Leadership.

c. English Learner Student Enrollment Update

Kevin Hanlon provided this year's English Learner (EL) enrollment update based on the October 1 PSIS enrollment data. Over a six year period the district EL enrollment has increased from 38 to 93. The highest frequency home languages as well as enrollment by grade level and school were also provided. A general increase in EL enrollment is anticipated and the district has planned for professional development and student support accordingly.

d. Flexibilities for Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Approved by CSDE

Marlene Silano indicated that the Flexibilities for Teacher/Administrator Evaluation that were passed by the full Board of Education at a recent meeting were accepted/approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

e. CHS SAT Overview

Dr. Mary Gadd presented SAT data that included performance for the past five years and Cheshire High School rankings as compared to all DRG B high schools. Cheshire ranked 15th and 17th in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics respectively for the 2021 administration of the assessment. Dr. Gadd shared that the results were not in line with what they would expect and the work they see from students in the classes. She shared an overview of the strategies the faculty is engaged with to improve performance.

f. NGSS (Science) alignment update

Kevin Hanlon gave a brief overview of the professional development the Connecticut Science Center has provided to the district to date this year. Consultants have met with the Elementary RAMs once as well as with the entire Middle School Science Division to continue to support the shifts to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The next sessions for both elementary and middle school groups will be during the week of October 25, 2021. Marlene Silano added that the CT Science Center will begin a lesson study with the CHS Science Department on November 2nd.

5. Adjourn

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator