

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, January 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair), Anne Harrigan, Tony Perugini

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; Kristen Shanley - Language Arts Division Leader, Dodd Middle School; Dawn Demeo - English Teacher, CHS; Erin Griffiths - Social Studies Teacher, CHS

Community Members Present:

None (live streamed)

1. Public Comment

No public comment via cpscovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us email.

2. [Review Minutes of December 13, 2021 Meeting](#)

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Mr. Perugini seconded the motion. Ms. Ham, Ms. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini voted to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021. The motion passed.

3. New Business

- a. Discuss a process for reconsideration of library books/classroom resources

Marlene Silano shared with the BOE Curriculum Committee members current policy 1312 Community Relations Public Complaints which addresses requests to reevaluate texts or instructional materials. The policy was adopted in 1996. The Committee members requested the CAFE model policy to review for the next meeting with the possibility of forwarding a recommendation to the Policy Committee to consider updating the policy.

4. Informational Items

- a. Update - CHS elective course - African American, Black and Puerto Rican, Latino Studies
Dawn Demeo and Erin Griffiths gave an update on the first year of the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies elective Social Studies course offered at CHS. Some key points of their update included how the syllabus is divided into two semesters, the first focused on African American studies and the second focused on Puerto Rican/Latino studies. The first semester follows a chronological approach and the second follows a thematic approach. Student engagement has been high, choice is embedded to a

significant extent in the course, and feedback on the course has been positive. Additionally, it was noted that the course combines history with literature and art.

- b. Update - Elementary Report Card - Re: Characteristics of the Vision of the Graduate
Kevin Hanlon shared the updates made to the Characteristics of Successful Learners section of the elementary report card. The updates included aligning the language of this section to the most recent Cheshire Performance Standards that are part of the Vision of the Graduate. The notable addition to the Performance Standards was the category of Complex Thinker which is one of the two areas of continued focus for the district. The updates to the report card will continue to be reviewed to be sure the feedback on the report card is meaningful and aligned with the district Vision of a Graduate.
- c. What are students reading at the middle school level? What skills are they learning?
Kristen Shanley and Kevin Hanlon gave an overview of what students are reading at Dodd Middle School. Kristen Shanley shared what is read by whole classes, individual students, and through book clubs and how each is connected to the standards throughout the year. Additionally, Mrs. Shanley emphasized the research supporting the importance of both independent reading and book clubs at the middle school level. Kevin Hanlon added the resources shared with parents so that they can be involved with what their child is reading at school.

5. **Adjourn**

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perugini seconded the motion. Ms. Ham, Ms. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator