

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, February 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

### Humiston Board Room

#### Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair) and Dr. 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; Lisa Bernabe, CHS Math Department Chair; Matthew Swanson, CHS Social Studies Teacher

Community Members Present: None

**1. Public Comment**

No in person comments, and no comments via email.

**2. Review Minutes of December 12, 2022 Meeting**

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12,, 2022 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of December 12,, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. New Business**

a. PSAT Results Overview

Dr. Mary Gadd gave an overview of the PSAT results for the fall 2023 administration. Highlights of the results include improvement from 8th grade Smarter Balanced Assessments to PSAT 9 scores (class of 2026) as well as sustained improvement on the PSAT from one year to the next for the (class of 2025). CHS is providing instructional support for grade 11 students who did not meet benchmark. CHS continues to engage in curriculum revisions as well as strong collaborative practices regarding instruction and data collection and analysis to support continued student growth and achievement.

a. New Textbook Recommendation

- Calculus: Early Transcendentals 8th Edition, by James Stewart

Lisa Bernabe gave an overview of the recommendation for Calculus: Early Transcendentals 8th Edition textbook. This recommendation is for a new addition to an AP (ECE) course Course. UCONN requires this text on their Calculus BC syllabus. Some hard copies of the text will be available for classroom use, and the students will have access to the digital text at all times.

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to move the Calculus: Early Transcendentals 8th Edition, by James Stewart to the full board for approval after the appropriate two*

*week period where it is available to the public for review. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Harrigan and Ms. Ham voted to approve the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

- [Comparative Government: Stories of the World](#), by Karen Waples  
Matthew Swanson gave an overview of the recommendation for the Comparative Government: Stories of the World, by Karen Waples. The text will be used in the half- year, AP Comparative Government course. This text is the only text available that is directly aligned with the College Boards thematic structure and each theme has its own chapter. The design makes it easy to use, read, and note take by the students. The tasks mirror the rigor of the AP exam free response questions.

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to move the Comparative Government: Stories of the World, by Karen Waples to the full board for approval after the appropriate two week period where it is available to the public for review. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Harrigan and Ms. Ham voted to approve the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. CHS Scheduling Committee Update**

Dr. Mary Gadd gave an update on the work of the Scheduling Committee. Students and Staff surveys were administered and reviewed by the committee. The themes of the results include seeing the benefit of block scheduling while also seeking ways to slightly increase the frequency of classes. The subcommittee is drafting questions for parents for additional input and feedback. The committee anticipates making a recommendation by late February or early March.

##### **b. Grade 6-8 Math Textbook Review Update**

Kevin Hanlon gave an update on the work of the grades 6-8 Math Textbook ad hoc committee. The committee has met several times since the fall, including most recently, earlier in the day of the BOE Curriculum Committee meeting. For this most recent meeting, the group observed and debriefed a lesson from Illustrative Math, which is one of the texts being vetted. The goal of the group is to try to get the most accurate understanding of how a text would actually support learning with the students in the district before making any recommendations. The committee will continue to meet, and bring possible recommendations to the BOE Curriculum Committee in March or April.

#### **5. Informational Items**

##### **a. Science of Reading Waiver Update**

Marlene Silano and Kevin Hanlon gave an update on the district's work to submit a waiver to the state to continue to use Cheshire's current curriculum for K-3 reading. This waiver is part of the state Right to Read legislation. As part of that legislation districts need to make one of three decisions. The first is to adopt one of the state approved reading programs for the 2023-24 school year. The second is to indicate the district intends to adopt a state approved reading program but delay until the 2024-25 school year. The third, which Cheshire has

chosen, is to submit a waiver to the state showing evidence that the current district curriculum has all of the components expressed through Science of Reading legislation. The waiver is due to the state by February 28. A small team is working to draft the narrative report with artifacts and appendices directly from the curriculum, report on required student performance data in early reading indicators in grades K-3, and submit an action plan for continued improvement.

b. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trip

Maureen Reed and Marlene Silano shared a few details about upcoming field trips for the high school and elementary schools. Both high school trips are annual events, and, after some interruption during Covid, several schools are restarting the Nature's Classroom experience for grade 6.

- [Ocean City, MD - Cheshire High School - February 24-26, 2023](#)
- [Boston, MA - Cheshire High School - March 24-26, 2023](#)
- [Nature's Classroom, Ivoryton, CT - Chapman School - May 8-12, 2023](#)
- [Nature's Classroom, Charlton, MA - Norton School - May 30 - June 2, 2023](#)
- [Nature's Classroom, Charlton, MA - Doolittle School - May 30 - June 2, 2023](#)

**6. 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 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator