

Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting held on November 25, 2014, at 10:00 AM in the Board of Education Conference Room One, 3 Primrose Street.

M. Ku J. Vouros L. Gejda

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Motion: M. Ku moved that the minutes of November 12, 2014 be approved. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion: M. Ku moved that the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee bring forward the Newtown Middle School Gr. 7, Gr. 7 Accelerated, and Gr. 8 Math to the Board of Education for approval. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

L. Gejda spoke regarding the Connecticut Summative Assessments 2014-2015. Discussed was the type of state assessments, testing window and delivery methods. Smarter Balanced assessments are designed as untimed tests and are adaptive to grade level only. J. Vouros indicated that an update on the progress of planning for this year's assessments would be useful, including information about technology and location of testing in each school. L. Gejda said that we could get an update in January.

A Curriculum Development Guide, in draft form, was handed out and discussed. L. Gejda explained that this is a process that starts with the curriculum committees and moves forward to a writing team, back to the committee for a final review, then to the Curriculum Council, C and I Subcommittee and finally to the Board for adoption.

The GATES screening team met recently and letters will be sent to parents in the near future. All identified fourth grade students are being seen by a GATES teacher at various times during the week. Each elementary school has an assigned day for their fourth grade students. The expectation is that all fourth grade students received comparable experiences so that they enter Reed Intermediate School with similar experiences. Principals are asking the GATES teacher to address other grades as they see the need. Two, out of three, Gates teachers attended the Gifted Conference the beginning of November.

M. Ku suggested that the discussion of classroom sizes be brought to the Board before the budget process. Further discussion to be held upon obtaining additional enrollment numbers.

A discussion regarding the draft 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 calendars began with a review of staff and student absentees on Fridays when District PLCs take place. A comparison of absences was provided for days preceding the DPLCs and further data on student absences on typical Fridays is being compiled for review. Having a delayed opening on DPLC days rather than an early dismissal was suggested. Feedback from PTAs and more information on attendance records will help determine a set calendar.

The January 27, 2015 meeting date was changed to January 29, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler