

**Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee**

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on December 9, 2014, at 11 AM in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street

J. Vouros L. Gejda E. Holst-Grubbe
M. Ku J. Erardi

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM.

Motion: M. Ku moved to accept the minutes of November 25, 2014. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

E. Holst-Grubbe, NHS BEAT department chair, spoke regarding the Baking and Pastry curriculum offered at NHS as an elective, starting with Grade 9 students. This is a semester introductory course. Both M. Ku and J. Vouros remarked that the opportunity to incorporate microbiology, chemistry, and math in the curriculum should be used as much as possible.

Students develop their own recipes and communicate with other students in other classes through a program called "Base Camp" that allows them to share suggestions and comments about culinary topics and projects. Students then meet, face to face, to further discuss their recipes and projects.

E. Holst-Grubbe is working with T. Einhorn to find a time to meet with 8th grade students to explain this program and other B.E.A.T. electives available to incoming freshman. Helping students choose their courses and increasing communication will help eliminate the overwhelming feeling parents and children have coming into NHS. E. Holst-Grubbe would like to do this at a middle school parent night **rather** than orientation night at the high school.

World Language site visit to Southington update report was very positive. It was agreed that an introductory program should be offered in all four elementary schools, with all K receiving instruction in the first year of implementation. Students would receive Spanish instruction by a certified WL staff member. The suggestion of having a dually-certified teacher was mentioned. L. Gejda will write a proposal for the Board.

According to NPS policy # 6146 the class of 2018 must have 23 credits to graduate. Current legislation (Secondary School Reform) states that the graduating class of 2020 (current seventh graders) must have 25 credits to graduate. Discussion followed about changing district policy to increase graduation credit requirements in anticipation of the 2020 deadline. However, it was shared that the Secondary School Reform legislation/implementation will, most likely, be revised or repealed. Therefore no further recommendation was considered. It was suggested that data be collected to determine how many NHS graduates are graduating with 25 credits.

The 2015-2017 calendars were discussed and new data from L. Gejda showed that student absences on non-ERD indicates high absentee rate on Fridays, regardless of ERD. Teacher attendance does not appear to be affected by ERD. Moving to have ERD days on Wednesday and in the AM are still being discussed. Dr. Erardi presented information from a discussion that indicates that next year's calendar may likely include a combination of Wednesdays and Fridays as well as several late-arrival District Professional Learning Community (Early Release) Days.

J. Erardi received a request that December 14th be a professional development day. There were questions about what the professional development would address. Concern for the children being home and not in school was also brought up.

An October 2014 class size K-8 enrollment report was handed out to members. This document was provided as informational for members to know the current average class sizes.

C & I recommended the description of C & I responsibilities to the Board as a whole for inclusion in the Subcommittee descriptions.

"The C & I Subcommittee shall:

1. Ensure that the curriculum reflects the Newtown school district mission, beliefs and objectives, taking into consideration the translation of more general goals into course-specific objectives and vertical alignment.
2. Meet with administration and staff to review goals, curriculum updates, new textbooks, proposed new courses and programs, course changes and the direction of the curriculum as a whole, and make recommendations regarding these items for the consideration of the full Board of Education.

This committee will be constituted with a subcommittee chair and one additional board member."

No public participation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler