

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

**Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on September 8, 2015, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.**

**M. Ku                      J. Vouros                      J. Evans Davila    L. Rodrigue                      A. Clure**

M. Ku called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: M. Ku moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2015. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion took place regarding the amount of curriculum that has been approved by the C and I Subcommittee and BOE during the 2014-2015 school year. The process was slow and ways to expedite were discussed. Restructuring of the process needs to be addressed.

Currently, the C and I Subcommittee is awaiting the approval, after the second read, of four science curricula. Members of the BOE will be given seven curricula for the first read at the upcoming BOE meeting, September 15, 2015.

M. Ku will be formatting a spreadsheet showing the status of all curriculum work within the approval system. L. Rodrigue shared how this will be beneficial for the upcoming NEASC visit at Newtown HS.

Future goals for the C and I committee are to have the Curriculum Council create a rubric for both curricula and textbook adoption. When considering textbooks, J. Evans Davila and L. Rodrigue noted the importance of looking for publishers that offer both text and digital resources.

Review of Dr. Erardi's goals that the C and I Subcommittee must support.

L. Rodrigue spoke in reference to Grade 8/9 transition pathway for math and science and that those who have academic promise adding rigor to get them ready for the high school courses

J. Vouros shared he has heard nothing but praise from parents of kindergarten students regarding the newly launched Spanish program. Children are actually coming home and sharing their new words with family members. We should look towards future expansion to a K-1 Spanish program for next year.

L. Rodrigue spoke about the pilot program endorsement practice and plans to bring this topic to the Curriculum Council Committee for guidelines and procedures.

M.Ku suggested as a future topic a Science self-study . Inviting P.Ragaini to share information about our students and working with corporations outside of the school day.

Public Participation: A. Clure, parent, thanked the committee for all they do and mentioned the importance of embedding discussion and interpersonal skills into the curriculum due to social isolation caused by students' over-reliance on electronic devices. L. Rodrigue assured him that there are high school graduation requirements focused on these skills. J. Evans Davila affirmed that these are important skills, as evidenced by the presence of the Speaking and Listening standards which are embedded across all grades in the K-12 Common Core Standards for English Language Arts.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15