

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

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

M. Ku	A. Uberti	A. Deeb
J. Vouros	K. Longobucco	E. Hall

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None.

Amy Deeb, Newtown High School Social Studies Department Chair, presented her proposal for combining two existing courses, Western Studies I and Western Studies II which would count as a one-credit yearlong course. Currently, each course is offered as a semester course. Approximately 98% of ninth graders take both courses and typically both semester courses are scheduled with the same teacher. Public Act 18-24, the Connecticut Holocaust and Genocide Education and Awareness Act, requires Holocaust and genocide education for all students. This content is included in Western Studies II; however if for some reason a student did not enroll in that course, they would miss this content. In addition, it is the belief of the department that combining the two courses into one will provide a better experience for students who often don't understand why it isn't one course to begin with. After a discussion, all in attendance agreed that this change makes sense and will be implemented in the 20-21 school year. The sub-committee members will advise the full Board of this change at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Eugene Hall, Newtown High School's Math Department Chair, presented his proposal to develop a Linear Algebra course that would be piloted in 2020/2021. This course would be an additional course that would only be offered in years that there are students who complete Multivariable Calculus prior to their senior year. When that happens (one student in 2018 and two in 2019), these students are unable to take a math class at NHS in their senior because they have already taken them all. The addition of Linear Algebra will benefit our top math students by providing them an opportunity to take a math course in their senior year. Linear Algebra and Multivariable Calculus would not be offered in the same year and both will fulfill the same college acceptance requirement. Mr. Hall has already made a request to write the curriculum for this new course. No additional staff or material resources are needed to offer the course. After a discussion, all in attendance agreed that this change makes sense and will be implemented in the 20-21 school year. The sub-committee members will advise the full Board of this proposal at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Michelle Ku discussed her attendance at a presentation on EdSight. (EdSight is CSDE's online data portal that provides detailed information about schools and districts and offers information on key performance measures that make up Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System.) She shared some reports that she thought were particularly interesting: College Entrance and Persistence and the Growth Trajectory Tool. Anne Uberti discussed how she and Director of Teaching and Learning, Frank Purcaro, are using these and other EdSight reports to inform their work around curriculum, instruction and assessment. She explained that Frank Purcaro is providing support to the administrators' in utilizing the vast amount of data that can be accessed through EdSight and making that data actionable. She also discussed how the NWEA Map Assessment data is used to help teachers set goals and monitor their students' performance and growth over time.

Assistant Superintendent Update:

Anne Uberti shared that Grade 4 Math will be presented to C & I in January, 2020.

Public Participation: None.

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

M. Ku seconded the motion

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.