

**Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Minutes**  
**October 4, 2017**

**Call to Order:** 10:05 a.m.

**Present:** John Vouros, Michelle Ku, Jean Evans Davila, Sue McConnell, Tim DeJulio, David Roach, Liz Ward, Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue

**Item 2**

John Vouros requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2017. Michelle Ku made the motion. Motion passes.

**Item 3**

**Public Participation:** None

**Item 4**

Pilot Presentation Spanish 1A – Liz Ward and David Roach presented the course.

Discussion was regarding two different pathways that are proposed for development. The first path would be Spanish IA and IB, each as a separate full year course; the second path would be Spanish IA and IB as semester courses with accelerated pacing. Dr. Rodrigue stated a presentation must be scheduled for the Board of Education to explain what it is we are bringing forward. Dr. Rodrigue stated this is not a pilot, but it is the Spanish I curriculum with new resources and a shift in how it is approached as Spanish IA and IB. Ms. Evans Davila stated that the World Language teachers will be provided funding for extra work hours in summer 2018 to develop the Spanish IB, which can be brought through the curriculum approval process when the new school year begins. Ms. Ward indicated the curriculum for Spanish IA is entered in Rubicon Atlas, completely mapped out with the assessments and supports; this work was completed during Summer 2017. Ms. Davila stated in order to streamline the process the following would take place: a) a presentation must be prepared and scheduled on the Board of Education Meeting Agenda; 2) the Spanish IA curriculum will be reviewed by the K-12 Curriculum Council, 3) the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will review the curriculum, and 4) a first and second read of the curriculum will be scheduled, so the BOE can take action to approve the curriculum. Committee members were in agreement.

**Item 5**

Discussion of the Biomedical Component of Project Lead the Way - Sue McConnell, David Roach, and Tim Julio presented information on the program.

Mr. Roach stated he was very impressed with Biomedical courses and what they could look like if implemented in Newtown High School. The courses expose students of all ability levels to specialized fields in the health sciences. Mr. Roach stated he was impressed and believed that this sequence of courses could be part of the STEM Partnership Program as a next step of its development. We could start by offering the first course in the sequence in year 1, which would progressively build each year to include the next of course until all four courses were adopted. The discussion then turned to the incremental cost each year to institute the program. Mr. Roach stated part of the cost would be to send two teachers to Baltimore for the Project Lead the Way

training that is particular to a specific course in the sequence. There are supplies which must be purchased, which also drives up the cost and because of hands on materials it then drives the cost up. Year 1 would include training of two teachers, supplies and the first course in the sequence. Year 2, a resupply of consumable materials for the first course must be considered, in addition to the training of two teachers for the second course in the sequence with its related start-up supplies and materials. Years 3 and 4 would follow suit with resupply of prior existing courses and the cost of additional training for the new course with its start-up material.

Dr. Ku commented that budget issues from the State of Connecticut could affect us, and she believes we need to consider this impact. She noted the decline in enrollment over the longterm, and asked how are we would plan to manage adding this program. She cautioned that we do not want to add programs if we cannot follow through on the implementation.

Mr. Roach offered to set up a trip to a high school in New Britain, where we can view their program. Ms. Rodrigue stated she thought the C&I Committee should delay discussion of Biomedical to a further meeting, so we can look for grant monies that might be available to fund it, giving us a better handle on it. Committee members agreed with this.

#### **Item 6**

Updates – Dr. Rodrigue

Dr. Rodrigue raised the topic of international travel and the recent exploratory visit to India by a cohort of staff representing our NICE Program, to review opportunities for a student exchange in the future. Dr. Rodrigue noted that the issue of safety in international travel is a topic being discussed by a group of superintendents in Connecticut. The group is putting together a list of which districts are continuing to permit international travel. She stated she was surprised to see many districts are not allowing international travel at this time, with travel to Canada being the only international location still occurring. Dr. Rodrigue stated that we need to consider the impact on our NICE Program, which is very different from the type of travel other districts have done in the past. Discussion centered on the timeliness of the BOE weighing in on the issue of international travel and whether the decision should come from the BOE or the administration.

#### **Items for next agenda:**

October 18 – Update on data last provided to the BOE on March 17, 2015, which indicates the number of students enrolled in each Math course at Reed Intermediate School - Principal Anne Uberti.

**Public Participation:** None

Motion to approve minutes of September 20. Approved.

Motion to adjourn by J. Vouros, seconded by M. Ku.

**Adjournment:** 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Morris