

Newtown Board of Education  
Newtown, Connecticut  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on  
November 29, 2017 in the BOE Conference Room.

J. Evans Davila

J. Vouros

M. Ku

S. D'Eramo

J. Vouros called the meeting to order 10:12

J. Vouros postponed the approval of November 15, 2018 minutes until the end of the meeting.

Public Participation: none

S. D'Eramo updated the committee members regarding teacher turnover by first stating that there is no data on other districts within Connecticut per comparison. Newtown's turnover is approximately 3 % per year, with the exception of 2010 and 2015 when a retirement incentive was offered. J. Vouros asked for reasons of resignations which included, retirement, family relocation, raising a family, higher salaries in other districts, moved to administrative positions, cross-endorsement, and those not meeting the standards elected to resign at that time.

S. D'Eramo stated that Newtown still offers an exit interview before people leave, but not everyone takes advantage of this offer.

M. Ku asked about other resignations within the district and was told that nurses, clerical and custodial have very low turnover rates. Para resignation will be researched.

J. Vouros questioned the 5<sup>th</sup> grade NGSS testing and what happens when children may have missed the subject materials. J. Evans Davila explained that the first year will be a transition year across all districts in Connecticut. She explained that Inquiry Based Instruction is a significant shift with NGSS and all students' ability to think scientifically and analytically while support claims with evidence will have a considerable impact on their performance. She also noted that during 2016-2017 the members of our K-12 NGSS Leadership completed a crosswalk of our curriculum to identify gaps.

The committee discussed the issue of K-6 staff not being certified in science and the content block rotation with changing subject areas. Science is being taught 40-45 minutes in K-4 on consecutive days until the unit is completed. Jean Evans Davila explained that elementary science is taught on a rotation among other subjects in the content block of instruction.

J. Vouros asked the question who monitors the teaching of these units. J. Evans Davila explained that the NGSS plan is monitored continuously and has been shared with all administrators. Jean meets two times monthly with the NGSS Leadership Team to monitor the implementation of the transition plan.

J. Vouros motioned to approve the minutes from November 15, 2017 meeting.  
M. Ku seconded the motion.

J. Evans Davila updated the committee regarding December 6, 2017 as being an ERD-DPLC Day.

Public participation: none

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn at 11:03 a.m.  
M. Ku seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

These are draft minutes and are subject to the approval of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee