

Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on January 29, 2015, 10 a.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.

Those in attendance:

M. Ku	J. Vouros	L. Gejda	L. Rodrigue	T. Einhorn
K. Sherman	J. Ross	J. Cavallaro	P. Greenfield	

The Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Motion: J. Vouros moved to accept the minutes of January 13, 2015. M. Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Public participation: none

The district math program (grades 7-12) was discussed.

T.Einhorn stated that the philosophy at Middle School has always been to meet student needs and that all students are challenged at their level. When a child enters MS within the first few weeks of school the child is re-evaluated. Since growth can take place over the summer, the opportunity to move to a higher level math is available. If the student has the work ethic, we will challenge them. The math program is very rich at the MS level and we must be very careful that they not skip anything.

L. Rodrigue stated that the HS discourages doubling up on math freshman year; however, this is possible during sophomore year. Students double up because they can't get into the science programs they would like. John Vouros commented that it is his understanding that doubling up on math is not a practice used in all districts. We need to look at the science and math sequence.

It was stated that we need to start in 4th grade informing parents what direction children should take in preparing students for high school.

Discussion to bring a Math presentation to the Board took place with a tentative date of March 17, 2015.

P. Greenfield was present to speak to the textbook adoption request for a new edition of "Ecce Romani I" which includes an interactive component along with a Language Activity book. Currently there are 58

students taking Latin I. Additional materials will be sent to the Board for review. A second review of the text will take place at the next C&I meeting.

NHS Jazz and Improvisation 1 and 2 postponed until February 10, 2015.

L. Gejda reported that she is working on a letter to parents regarding the upcoming Smarter Balanced testing. On-line examples of test questions are available through the state website. Smarter Balanced questions are adaptive to a student's ability. Tests are not timed. Students can use online, embedded tools, for example, calculators, drop and drag answers. Children are getting more comfortable with the format.

Motion: M. Ku moved that the C and I subcommittee bring forward the Baking and Pastry Curriculum to the BOE for approval. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion took place on when the next subcommittee meetings will be held. The group agreed upon the following dates starting at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

February 24, 2015

March 24, 2015

April 21, 2015

April 28, 2015

May 12, 2015

May 26, 2015

June 9, 2015

June 23, 2015

Public participation: none

J. Vouros moved to adjourn. M Ku seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

