

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

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on June 9, 2015, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 3 Primrose Street.

M. Ku	L Gejda	H. Beauty	D. Hall
J. Vouros	A. Uberti	B. Cartoun	P. Kurz

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

MOTION: Dr. Ku moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2015. Mr. Vouros seconded.  
Motion passes unanimously.

Public participation: None

Dr. Gejda invited Ms. Anne Uberti and Mr. Drew Hall to update the subcommittee on the Reed Intermediate School Math Curriculum. Mr. Hall feels the curriculum will be ready to go to the Board in the fall.

Mr. Hall has been trying to maintain consistency with the curriculum. He has a scope in sequence that outlines the calendar form per teacher requests. Dr. Gejda's recommendation was to attach the calendar form to the very first form under the description tab or link the calendar to every unit.

Mr. Hall said they are finding with the enriched students and the plus students that their materials look different because their needs are different. How they are presented and showing their knowledge is using out of the box thinking that requires out of the box assessing.

Mr. Hall told the committee that 5<sup>th</sup> graders are introduced to algebra but a very quick water downed version which offers good exposure.

Mr. Vouros said at the end of the school year the ideal situation would be to have all classes move on having been exposed to some of the information. He hopes teachers are communicating so they cover the same topics. He asked if teachers have classes at the same time. Mr. Hall said sometimes they have been able to get classes together. Mr. Hall said the

language arts teachers have been extremely supportive. Mr. Vouros asked Mr. Hall to thank the language arts teacher for their extra time and planning for these kind of classes.

Mr. Hall said the final three half days of school will be spent with the math plus teachers to get them more in alignment with the curriculum document.

Ms. Uberti said that teachers need a common planning time. She gave them an extra prep period as needed for planning. She told the committee that the teachers did not abuse the time and the time did help more things along.

Dr. Ku asked how this curriculum feeds into the Middle School. Mr. Hall said all the students were tested for algebra and their performance was discussed with the Middle School. The Middle School made decisions and sent letter homes to the parents about where the students would be placed. Dr. Ku said she heard one issue from a parent about their child that was doing really well in the program and thought the program would continue from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Uberti said we need to clarify this with the Middle School. She said originally only students in the plus would be considered for algebra. Reed did not know there was going to be four levels.

Dr. Ku asked if there was split leveling within the cluster. Ms. Uberti said this should not be happening. Dr. Ku thanked Ms. Uberti and Mr. Hall for a job well done.

Dr. Gejda introduced Ms. Madhuri Jerfy and Mr. Jerfy John along with their son, Aadit Jerfy, and Ms. Dana Totir. They came to the meeting to discuss the possibility of a First Lego League/Robotics here in town. Dr. Gejda said it would be a parent supported program after school. The after school program would give us a sense as to how many students would be interested in such an activity. The Jerfy children participate in a program in Danbury. Their parents would prefer an inside the school day program rather than an after school program.

Mr. John gave a presentation to the committee on the background of robotics. He said robotics is not just building robots. The students attend competitions. Each team member has a different task for competitions and points are given for tasks completed. He said robotics is more about creating an innovative solution for something. The teams are typically given a problem they have to resolve. These competitions provide the students with valuable life/career skills, teamwork, discipline and presentation skills. After Mr. John's presentation Aadit Jerfy demonstrated how the robotic he built operates.

Mr. Vouros feels the best place to start this program is within the GATES Program. Mrs. Jerfy told the committee about the robotics program that Mr. Tim McGuire at the Reed Intermediate School holds over the summer. A discussion followed and consensus was the best way to start up a program is after school but the program will compliment what we do with the science stem units. Dr. Gejda told the committee there was a parent from Southington very involved with the robotics program that will come in to speak to the Board but the Board needs to commit and support the program.

Dr. Gejda introduced Ms. Heidi Beauty, Ms. Bonita Cartoun and Ms. Pat Kurz to the subcommittee who came to discuss the Grade 3 and Grade 4 Social Studies Curriculum.

Ms. Cartoun told the subcommittee that 3<sup>rd</sup> grade curriculum has three units. The first unit in the curriculum is a map unit. The second unit is the bulk of the curriculum looking at the northeast geography, culture, economics, history and government. The third and final unit in the curriculum is where students select another region (Midwest, West or South) and compare it to the Northeast. Ms. Cartoun shared the resources that are currently used with this curriculum.

Ms. Kurz presented the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to the subcommittee. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade studies Connecticut. Ms. Kurz said this study works nicely with the national social studies units presented on theme basis. The students are constantly doing comparisons and become very competent with research in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Kurz said one of the biggest units in the curriculum is on government. The resources for this curriculum were also shared with the subcommittee.

The group told the subcommittee the Grade 3 and 4 Social Studies curriculum should be ready to go to the Board in the fall.

MOTION: Dr. Ku moved to forward Western Studies 1 and 2, Introduction to Western Philosophy and Child Development I and II to the Board. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

IPES, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (2<sup>nd</sup> Read) will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Gejda and Mr. Vouros updated the subcommittee on the GATES Program. She said Ms. Kate Magness will be working with the students from Sandy Hook School and Middle Gate School.

Dr. Sherry Earle will be working with the students from Head O'Meadow School and Hawley School. The entire group will come together every Wednesday.

The next Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Public participation: None

MOTION: Dr. Ku made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.