

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

M. Ku A. Uberti D. Zukowski
J. Vouros A. Marks K. Longobucco

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.
J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from 3.10.20
M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Preview New Curriculum: English I

Ms. Abigail Marks

A. Marks presented the English I curriculum and gave an overview of the learning objectives and assessments for each of the units:

- Understanding What Makes Us Human
- Recognizing and Responding with Resiliency
- Life is a Matter of Decisions
- Stand Up, Speak Out: A Call for Social Justice

J. Vouros asked A. Marks how whether or not students arriving in 9th grade were prepared for the rigor of reading and writing presented in the curriculum.

A. Marks stated that students are prepared however there are some big changes that teachers must address since students come from a workshop model and English I is more whole class novel instruction, although they do incorporate opportunities for choice.

A. Marks shared that the text complexity of the whole group novels can make the reading challenging for some students but she shared that students working together on the text helps support lower level readers.

A. Marks shared that the vertical meetings that took place between 8th and 9th grade teachers was very helpful.

8th grade teachers are now incorporating one whole class novel into their curriculum.

A. Uberti noted that she is working to put a group together to do a vertical alignment between 6th grade and 9th grade to ensure students have the opportunity to experience complex text regardless of reading levels, something students experience more with whole class novels and less in a workshop model.

M. Ku shared that as a parent she noticed that reading often falls off in middle school and asked that as the curriculum is developed we are cognizant of finding ways to keep students engaged in reading.

Preview Curriculum: English III (American Literature)

Ms. Abigail Marks

A. Marks presented the English III (American Literature) curriculum and gave an overview of the learning objectives and assessments for each of the units:

- Who Are We?
- What is the American Dream?
- Amplifying All Voices
- Power of Inquiry

J. Vouros commented that students returning from college consistently report how well prepared they are for college writing and commended A. Marks and her department for their outstanding work.

M. Ku commented on the inclusion and importance of the Proteus Project.

K. Longobucco noted that completing the Proteus Project is an important step in helping CP Level students design their Capstone Projects.

Both A. Marks and K. Longobucco stated that having formally adopted curriculum makes it easier to focus on monitoring effective implementation.

K. Longobucco shared that at the start of last year, teachers were all given access to the curriculum and rubicon. That time was dedicated to reviewing the new curriculum and that was very helpful.

Assistant Superintendent Updates

A. Uberti shared an updated Curriculum Approval Calendar that will allow all curriculums currently in the pipeline to go through the approval process by the end of this school year.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:30 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.