

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

M. Ku A. Uberti
S. Strait M. Correia

J. Vouros called the meeting to order 10:31 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2019 meeting.

M. Ku second the motion.

Public Participation: None.

Key Points of Sara Strait's presentation

- Grade 6 is working on mindfulness. Mindfull exploring, coloring , eating and body scans.
- Grade 5 is learning about challenge by choice. They choose a level that is appropriate for them.
- Social Emotional Learning Competencies from Casal. Grade 5 & 6 are in self- awareness. Grade 5 is working on self- management. We always debrief at the end, what did they experience, what did they learn. Students go through all their competences.
- Staff will be included in the spring to experience the learning cycles that the students experience.
- Assessment-We looked at growth mind set from the previous year. All the assessments students are doing self- reflection. The district decided to go ahead and use Panorama. We give Panorama SEL in the fall and spring. The data will be shared with the school counselors. Counselors can see it all the way down to the individual level, they also can see classes and homeroom, grade level and school and lessons directly related to the results.
- 6th graders are writing their personal goals and enter them into Naviance. 5th graders are writing their mission statement and entering them into Naviance. We will be teaching the stdents how to set their goals into Naviance.

Mrs. Uberti provided an update on tech devices in the school.

- Chromebooks have emerged as the tool of choice due to ease of use, tight integration with G-Suite and Google Classroom, long battery life and overall low cost of ownership
- Current Chromebook access is as follows:
 - Grades K-2: each classroom has 6 iPads available for use

- Grades 3-6: each classroom has enough Chromebooks available to support a one-to-one experience
- Grades 7-8: three class sets of Chromebooks per cluster (four classes)
- In the 20-21 budget, the high school will request enough Chromebooks to support a one-to-one environment for ninth graders and will make the same request in subsequent years until the high school has achieved a one-to-one environment for all.
- Some costs for devices will be offset due to the decrease in needs for maintaining fixed desktop labs as Chromebooks are deployed.
- Newtown High School will continue to maintain some labs to support courses whose curriculum requires applications only available on desktop operating systems.
- iPads are still available for use and support different types of productivity throughout the district.

Assistant Superintendent Updates

Mrs. Uberti shared that she has revised the Curriculum Development Guide and is currently awaiting feedback from the Curriculum Development Council which will meet in early December. Once it is finalized, she will bring it before C&I for review.

Mrs. Uberti provided an updated calendar for curriculum approval for the 19-20 school year. The calendar will continue to be updated on a regular basis as curriculum moves through the approval process.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:42 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.

