

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

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

M. Ku A. Uberti
J. Vouros

Also present Board of Education member Deborra Zukowski

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Proposal for Changes to the Elementary Schedule 2020/2021

Elementary principals have been working with Assistant Superintendent Anne Uberti to develop an elementary schedule that ensures the delivery of a guaranteed and viable curriculum in academics as well as unified arts

Challenges with the current schedule:

Increased demand on time as a result of new science curriculum standards among other initiatives such as social-emotional learning, Spanish, and testing requirements results in a shortage of time to fit it all in

Inconsistency in instructional time in academics as teachers often are forced to make decisions regarding what will not get taught

Inconsistency in instructional time for missed unified arts classes (specials) that fall on holidays and/or school cancellations

The 30-minute push-in model for Spanish is not ideal

- classroom teacher in the room vs. out of the room
- no substitute
- no designated space
- often ends up being less than 30 minutes

- inconsistency in instructional hours due to holidays, school cancellations and teacher absence

Limited opportunities to share elementary staff with Reed Intermediate School (which utilizes a 6-day schedule)

Benefits of an elementary 6-day Schedule:

Ensure consistency in the delivery of curriculum in all areas as nothing is skipped in a rotational schedule

Moving Spanish into a special slot returns 30 minutes of instructional time back to core academics

Increases the instructional time for Spanish and elevates the delivery of that instruction (dedicated time, space and substitutes for teacher absences)

Provides more flexibility of time and thought by looking at instruction over 6 days rather than 5

Elementary principals are working as a team with math/science and language arts specialists to purposely plan instructional blocks that account for other activities which currently take place on a regular basis such as the Responsive Classroom “Quiet Time” practice

Development of a new schedule will ensure that the written curriculum is the taught curriculum

A 6-day schedule will allow opportunities to share K-6 certified staff with Reed Intermediate, if needed and appropriate

Challenges of a 6-day Schedule:

Reduces special time by about 4.5 hours per year, assuming a student participated in all sessions under the existing scheduling model

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:18 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.

