

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

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

M. Ku            A. Uberti  
J. Vouros

Also present Board of Education member Deborra Zukowski.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 9/21/2021 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

**Public Participation:** None

**i-Ready Update - A. Uberti**

i-Ready fall testing window was originally scheduled to close on Friday, October 8, but was extended until the 15th due to several students whose testing was interrupted due to quarantine.

The feedback from teachers regarding the test administration was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers reported that the test was easier to administer than NWEA and that the format was more student friendly and engaging.

Teachers will participate in a 2-hour virtual training session this week with i-Ready to learn how to locate and view student results, how to analyze those results and access resources matched to student needs.

We are in the process of determining how results will be shared with parents. Due to the extension of the testing window, results for all students may not be available to share during conferences. They will likely either be emailed, mailed or sent home with students along with an email notification.

Two sample reports were shared. Reports are relatively easy to read.

Regardless of how parents receive the results, there are ample resources to support parents in interpreting results.

**CSDE K-3 Literacy Initiatives - A. Uberti**

CSDE has created a new Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success. The Center will:

- Approve Universal K-3 reading assessments and provide guidance
- Approve at least 5 reading curriculum models or programs
- Work with local and regional boards of education

As a result of this, for the school year commencing July, 2023, all local and regional Boards of Education will be required to:

- Implement a K-3 reading curriculum model or program approved by the Center.
- If the local or regional board demonstrates to the Commissioner of Education, that such

board has insufficient resources or funding to implement any of the approved reading curriculum models or programs, the Commissioner shall grant time extension.

- The Commissioner and Center may grant a waiver to local and regional boards of education to implement a model/program other than those approved by Center.
- Use one of the approved Universal K-3 Screening Reading Assessments to identify K-3 students below proficiency in reading.

A. Uberti stated that she anticipates we would have to submit our existing K-3 Literacy to the CSDE for approval at some point. There has been no further information about what requirements might be anticipated but she will be watching closely as more information is provided. It is possible that there will need to be tweaks to our curriculum based on the new requirements once they are released.

As part of the Center's efforts to improve educator's ability to recognize and provide appropriately structured interventions for students with dyslexia, they are working to improve training for new teachers and provide professional development opportunities for existing teachers. Because children with a familial history of dyslexia are at a greater risk for also having the disability, the Center is also developing a voluntary family history questionnaire that can be shared by school districts during the 2022-2023 school year.

### **New Black & Latino Studies Course - A. Uberti**

In December, 2020, the CT State Board of Education approved the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino high school course of studies. This 1 credit, year-long elective, is required to be offered in all school districts in 22-23, by a state law signed in June 2019. As part of the course, students will consider the scope of African American/Black and Puerto Rican/ Latino contributions to U.S. history, society, economy, and culture. It utilizes Connecticut's Social Studies Framework themes and inquiry-based approach.

Rachel Torres, social studies teacher at Newtown High School, has been preparing to teach the course next fall.

A. Uberti is currently working with Amy Deeb, NHS Social Studies Department Chair, to identify what resources will be needed so that they can be included in the next school budget.

For those who may be interested in more, the course is available online: [The African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies](#). A 36-minute documentary "[Making History: The creation of a statewide Black and Latino Course of Studies per CT PA 19-12](#)," is also available for viewing by the public.

### **Rubicon Atlas Public View - A. Uberti**

A. Uberti has been working to ensure that all of the formal curriculum is available for public view on the District's Curriculum and Instruction page via Rubicon Atlas. Rubicon Atlas is a web-based curriculum mapping and management tool. Listed there is any course for which formal curriculum has been developed. Curricula may have the following designation:

College Board AP	These are advanced placement courses designed and approved by the College Board that may qualify for college credit.
Pilot	These courses are newly developed and are currently being piloted.

Due for Revision	This curriculum is approaching a revision in the curriculum review cycle.
Under Revision	This curriculum is currently being revised by the curriculum writing team.
Pending Approval	Curriculum that is currently under revision and/or review and is pending Board approval.
Approved	Board approved curriculum has been reviewed and adopted by the Newtown Board of Education.

The site is about 85% updated and Mrs. Uberti expects it to be 100% accurate within the next week.

The public can access Rubicon Atlas on the District website via the link on the Curriculum page.

**Assistant Superintendent Updates – Anne Uberti**

Dates for 2022 C & I meetings have been mapped out and will be shared as soon as the Board approves their meeting schedule at the next Board meeting.

**Public Participation:** None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:51 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.