

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

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

M. Ku A. Uberti
J. Vouros

Also present Board of Education member Deborra Zukowski.

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

J. Vouros moved to approve the minutes from the 10/26/21 meeting.

M. Ku seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Fall Kindergarten Entrance Inventory – Anne Uberti

The Fall Kindergarten Entrance Inventory is administered each year to all Kindergarten students at the beginning of the year. It provides a snapshot of the skills students have mastered when they begin Kindergarten. This helps teachers assess their student development going forward into the school year. Skills and behavior are defined by specific indicators six domains:

- Language Skills
- Literacy Skills
- Physical and Motors Skills
- Creative Astatic Skills
- Personal and Social Skills

A. Uberti stated that the results can be used to inform preschools, including our own preschool.

A. Uberti has been discussing with D. Petersen(Director of Pupil Services) and S. Raquel the idea of establishing a pre-school collaborative with local preschools to share resources and information that will assist our Kindergarten teachers when our new groups come in.

J. Vouros asked how does this involve the St. Rose Preschool?

A. Uberti responded that a committee will first be formed and then we will reach out to all area preschools.

New Teacher Support – Anne Uberti

A. Uberti provided an overview of the extensive support that is provided to new teachers in our district. Karen Dreger is the current TEAM facilitator who oversees all of our mentors and mentees. This year there are 35 fully trained mentors and 22 new teachers enrolled in TEAM. The TEAM coordinating committee meets three times per year to discuss and plan. Our district support plan was approved in 2019. The District will need to update it for the 22-23 year and resubmit it for approval to the CSDE.

Philosophy of Reading Statement – Anne Uberti

This item was deferred to a future agenda.

Curriculum Review Materials/Processes Update – Anne Uberti

A. Uberti updated the committee on the progress relating to developing processes and protocols that ensure our curriculum is culturally responsive as required by the CSDE. F. Purcaro and A. Uberti met with Wes Johnson, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, to review current practices and discuss possible improvements to the existing process. Some ideas that are being considered are having building Safe School Climate teams involved in the process as well as providing more training to curriculum writers in this area at the start of the curriculum writing process. Additionally, the district Social Studies Committee has been working on creating a list of questions to be considered when developing each section of the curriculum writing template that would help guide writers as they engage in this work.

A. Uberti has also developed a curriculum feedback tool to be used during the first year implementation of curriculum. It will be piloted this year with the new grade 5 and 6 social studies curriculum. This will allow all teachers, even those who have not been involved directly in writing the curriculum, to provide feedback as it is being implemented. That feedback can then be used to inform any possible tweaks that may be necessary before moving into the second year of a curriculum implementation. This is an important step because what is expected to happen when a curriculum is written is sometimes different than what happens when a curriculum is actually taught. It is important to take the experience of teachers into consideration prior to finalizing a new curriculum. We have been working on developing a feedback tool for teachers, when we write curriculum.

J. Vouros suggested we have W. Johnson attend the Culture and Climate meetings and have him meet with the para-educators.

A. Uberti stated that culturally responsive training has been offered to the paras both last year and this year and that we will consider having Mr. Johnson work more directly with the group in the future.

J. Vouros suggested W. Johnson be involved with some of the BOE meetings in order to present and update.

Assistant Superintendent Updates – Anne Uberti

J. Vouros, Deborra Zukowski and Anne Uberti had the opportunity to visit Cooking with Science and Project Adventure and a co-taught math class at Newtown Middle School. These new courses are going very well and feedback from teachers and students is positive.

A. Uberti acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Michelle Ku over her eight years on the Board of Education. She also thanked her on behalf of the Curriculum Council who wanted her to know that they deeply appreciated all of the work she has done on C&I for the advancement of curriculum.

Public Participation: None

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 11:43 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.