

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

J. Larkin J.Vouros
D. Ramsey A. Uberti K. DiBartolo

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

J. Vouros approved to approve the minutes from the 9/27/22 and 10/11/22 meeting.

J. Larkin second the motion.

Public Participation: None

Kindergarten Entrance Inventory – A. Uberti

Each year the Kindergarten teachers complete a Kindergarten entrance inventory, it is a requirement from the state of Connecticut. It is a brief assessment of their students that focuses on six domains:

- Language Skills
- Literacy Skills
- Numerously Skills
- Physical and Motor Skills
- Creative and Aesthetic Skills
- Personal and Social Skills

These skills are evaluated through observation, with a handbook available to guide teachers. On each indicator teachers evaluate student performance on the following levels:

Level 1 Students demonstrate emerging skills

Level 2 Students inconsistently demonstrate skills with some instructional support

Level 3 Students consistently demonstrate skills that require minimal instructional support.

The CSDE state collates the information that provides information as to how our students are coming into Kindergarten. This information will help us work with our community based pre-school programs to assist in improving programming.

Professional Development Update – A. Uberti

A. Uberti shared that approximately 140 K-8 Paraprofessionals participated in PD on October 19th and 20th at the Newtown Community Center. This is the first time the paras have had an opportunity for in-person professional development since prior to the pandemic and it was very well received. The topic was “Managing Student Behavior - Proactive and Reactive Strategies“, presented by Special Ed Supervisors Maureen Hall and Sonia Raquel. Marlene Bucci, a behavior para at Middle Gate also

presented. The District is required to provide three professional development opportunities, in addition to Convocation, to paras. The high school paras will participate during the November conferences. The next PD will be during March conferences for all K-12 paras.

PD planning is also underway for certified staff for November 8, 2022. A. Uberti and K. DiBartolo also plan PD for over 400 certified staff members K through 12. A variety of topics will be presented. Major topics include Bridges Math K-5, Into Math 6-8, Writing Calibration 5-8, Inquiry-based Instruction 7-8 Science and Social Studies, Supporting English Language Learners 9-12, Implementing Diversity and Inclusion in Schools Using a 4-Pillar Model 9-12.

Upcoming Changes to Social Studies – K. DiBartolo

Kara DiBartolo, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared information about expected changes from the state in the area of Social Studies. The changes are based on feedback from districts seeking more specific information on what they teach, how to teach it and what resources should be utilized. Once these changes are made available, Newtown will use the information to evaluate existing curricula and determine whether modifications are needed. K.DiBartolo explained that model curriculum, if released, is used only as a model and that it is left up to districts to consider how or whether to use any of the curriculum and if so how. The District will continue to monitor this situation, consider its implications and determine whether any proposed changes would benefit the students of Newtown. C&I will be kept inform of these changes as they unfold.

K. DiBartolo also clarified that this is different from the proposed changes to reading that have been mandated by state legislation.

Assistant Superintendent Updates – A. Uberti

A. Uberti shared that intervention for student's is underway at all schools. Elementary schools are again offering a before school program. Middle School is developing an afterschool opportunity for students. Reed's schedule allows for more flexibility for support so right now an additional program is not needed.

Public Participation – Michelle Buzzi

38 Obtuse Road
Newtown, CT

Ms. Buzzi spoke as a parent of children who progressed through the Newtown Public Schools. She shared that geography had been taught in the elementary schools through various means including music in which the teacher taught the "Fifty Nifty" song so that students learned about the states. She also shared a very positive experience for her children in US History at Newtown Middle School. She shared that buddying EL families with other families was a strategy that worked with NHS band families and might be something for schools to model in building a welcoming community for English language learning families.

J. Vouros adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

J. Larkin seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Norling

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.