

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

D. Ramsey J. Vouros E. Myhill
C. Gilson K. Magness A. Uberti

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

- D. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- D. Ramsey moved to approve the minutes from the 11/28/23 meeting.
- C. Gilson seconded the motion.

Public Participation: None

Presentation: Project Challenge –K. Magness, E. Myhill

A. Uberti introduced Kate Magness and Eric Myhill who are teachers for students in grades 2-8 who are identified as gifted. She reminded Board members that Project Challenge (gifted program) went through some changes last year due to a reduction in staff and shifting the enrichment program, which had been taught by Ms. Magness, to the library media specialists. She invited Ms. Magness and Mr. Myhill to provide an overview of the gifted program known as Project Challenge.

Ms. Magness shared that formal identification of gifted students has traditionally begun in grade 3 but that it will be shifting to grade 2. She shared the structure of the program and the process for identification. She and Mr. Myhill are responsible for all outreach and communication to parents regarding the gifted program. Mr. Myhill teaches two days a week at the middle school and three days a week at Reed. Ms. Magness teaches at all four elementary schools during the week and on Wednesdays at Reed. In addition to screening and identification of gifted students, they also work with teachers to help them support both identified gifted and other high-achieving students in the classroom setting.

Below is the link to the presentation that K. Magness shared:

[Updates on Gifted Education. C&I Committee. 2023.pdf](#)

J. Vouros asked how do you monitor students who do not complete the standardized testing?
K. Magness stated that part of the protocol for the OLSAT is whether or not students were able to finish in the allotted time. A part of the IQ measure is to complete the test and score high in the amount of time that is allowed. We can see how many questions the student completed on the test which may be helpful if the student is rescreened.

C. Gilson asked, does the state offer guidance?

K. Magness replied that the state lets the districts create their own identification process. The state mandates that you identify students, but does not mandate that you offer services.

C. Gilson asked if the district has a program for students that are artistically gifted?

K. Magness added that we do not identify artistically gifted students. A. Uberti replied there are opportunities through music, and art but our program only services the academically gifted.

J. Vouros asked by going down to second grade if there is enough staff.

K. Magness answered that since she no longer provides services for the enrichment program, this should allow her time to service grade two.

Curriculum Development Process Overview – A. Uberti

A. Uberti reviewed the Curriculum Development Guide, which was revised and approved by the Board in 2019, with the subcommittee members to help them better understand how curriculum is developed and the steps it goes through before coming to them. She explained the important role of Curriculum Council which provides training and coaching to teachers who will be writing curriculum, as well as reviewing and providing feedback once curriculum projects are completed and prior to the curriculum coming to the subcommittee. She also shared the Curriculum Approval Calendar so they could get an idea of what would be coming before them in the future.

D. Ramsey asked if there is representation from each building on the Council. A. Uberti stated there is not representation from each building but that there is representation from every level.

Assistant Superintendent Updates

A. Uberti confirmed that the Curriculum and Instruction meeting day and time is good for the new members.

D. Ramsey asked if the committee title should reflect that SEL is now part of Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Uberti said she would make the change.

Public Participation: None

D. Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

J. Vouros seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Norling

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