

Newtown Board of Education  
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Minutes from October 28, 2016 Meeting

Present: J. Evans Davila, M. Ku, and J. Vouros (J. McEvoy, Recording Secretary)

Item 1: J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:25 am

Item 2: J. Vouros made a motion to approve the October 14, 2016 minutes and M. Ku seconded.

Item 3: Public Participation: None

Item 4: Discussion of SBAC results

- J. Evans Davila reviewed her report “2015-2016 SBAC: Final Aggregate Results”.  
Highlights:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- In ELA results among the district’s four elementary schools, “Head O’Meadow (HOM) and Hawley (HAW) have the highest percentage of students performing at level 3 and above (having met or exceeded the standard) at 88% and 80% respectively.” J. Evans Davila reviewed whether the “High Needs” subgroup is impacting the lower ELA results for Middle Gate School (MGS) (70.8%) and Sandy Hook School (SHS) (71.3%) and found there to be minimal to no impact. Reed Intermediate School (RIS) 73.3% and Newtown Middle School (NMS) 75.1% scores indicate a similarly negligible impact.
- J. Evans Davila showed the Committee that, “at the elementary school level, grade 3 performance was consistently higher than grade 4 performance, as indicated by the percentage of students achieving level 3 and above in ELA.” RIS and NMS were similar to the elementary schools. Her resulting conclusion was that “it cannot be surmised that effectiveness of instruction in ELA varies between grade levels where students are tested with Smarter Balanced in any of the six schools.”
- To the question: “How do Newtown students perform in ELA within DRG B and in comparison to districts overall in the State of Connecticut?” J. Evans Davila pointed out that “first ranked Trumbull at 81.8% when compared to sixteenth ranked Newtown at 75.2% represents only a moderate difference of 6.6%; in addition, the difference between each of (the towns listed) is substantially narrow and negligible at best.”

Math SBAC Results

- The same pattern is found in the Math SBAC results as were seen in the ELA results for the 4 elementary schools. The scores were Head O’Meadow (80%), Hawley (76.3%), Middle Gate (65.2%) and Sandy Hook School (63.2%). Reed Intermediate School is at 68.3% and the Newtown Middle School at 72.6%.
- As in the ELA results, it was found that there was minimal to no impact from the “High Needs” subgroup on the Math results of our schools.

- The differences in performance between grade level Math results are more varied than the ELA results, but J. Evans Davila’s conclusion was that “in order to support any assumptions about performance across this wide range of levels, grades 3-8, a more detailed analysis of Vertical Scale Scores would be in order.”
- “How do Newtown students perform in Math within DRG B and in comparison to districts overall in the State of Connecticut?” Using the “Math results for the State of Connecticut as a whole and all DRG B school districts in descending order of percentage of students scoring at levels 3 and 4...Newtown ranks number 6 among the 21 DRG B districts and the State of Connecticut, placing below yet in proximity to Trumbull (ranked 1), and ranked far above Fairfield (14), Brookfield (19) and New Fairfield (20).”

### Discussion

- It was asked how the students take the SBAC (by computer) and whether this may be an issue? J. Evans Davila answered that there is a practice session to prepare for navigating this test on the computer.
- The Committee requested to see the students who are in the advanced math classes at Reed – the number of students and what schools they come from.
- J. Evans Davila asked the Committee members not to put too much emphasis on this one measure and stated that it is one piece of the portrait in how we view student performance. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the SBAC has been given.

Item 6 Public Participation: None

Item 7 J. Vouros motioned to adjourn the C & I Subcommittee Meeting at 11:50 am and M. Ku seconded.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 10:00 am**

*These are draft minutes and are subject to the approval of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee*