

Board of Education
Newtown, CT
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee
Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held on May 26, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room One, 3 Primrose Street.

L. Gejda	M. Ku	J. Vouros	L. Cooper
E. Holst-Grubbe	C. Dietter	K. Davey	C. Canfield

M. Ku called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

M. Ku requested to add to the May 12, 2015 minutes that L. Gejda provided an outline of a five year plan for Curriculum review. A final page will be added to the Curriculum Development Guide.

Motion: M. Ku moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2015. J. Vouros seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Participation: none

Erik Host-Grubbe presented the Child Development I curriculum explaining that the course is open to 9-12th grade students with approximately 60 students taking both Child Development I and II. Units include Learning about Children, Family, Parenting, Neonate, Infants and Toddlers. Students are able to observe lesson activities taught by certified teachers in a preschool setting. Working on a team, students are able to create a schedule for a preschool day which includes academic lessons, center activities and monthly themes.

L. Gejda introduced PE teachers L. Cooper from Middle Gate Elementary and K. Davey from NHS to discuss the vertical alignment of the PE curriculum from grades k-12. It has taken a few summers to write this curriculum but results can already be seen in the high school stated K. Davey. Mr. John Hichwa, a nationally known PE instructor, was able to review our standards and has agreed that we are aligned with both national and state standards. The PE curriculum is a tiered curriculum to accommodate everyone no matter what their ability is. K-4 starts with problem solving activities, sharing and sportsmanship. Project Adventure is presently used at Middle School and Reed. NHS does have a certified Project Adventure teacher but does not have equipment to move forward with the program.

Motion was made by M. Ku to bring forward the PE curriculum to the BOE seconded by J. Vouros

C. Canfield, Chairperson of the Science Department at NHS presented the Physics, Chemistry, Biology and IPES (Integrated Physical and Earth Science) Curriculum. Because new state standards are expected to be adopted soon, the curriculum will likely change somewhat by adding STEM activities to units.

Science standards are available but currently are not approved by the state. The state is waiting for feedback from districts.

C. Canfield stated that we need to get children excited about science. Future meetings with middle school and high school will provide a vertical outline. Discussion of science vs math and the need for strong math skills was mentioned. L. Gejda stated that L. Rodrigues is looking into data.

C. Dietter presented Western Philosophy and Western Studies to the subcommittee.

An elective for Social Studies, Western Philosophy examines the evolution of philosophy in the western world and has been a pilot program for the past two years. Taught to 11 and 12th graders only, this course consists of heavy reads and thinking. Next year at least 50 students have signed up to take the course. C. Dietter is seeking board approval for the course and adoption of the curriculum.

Western Studies Curriculum is the first one in the department written in a concept based format. It is taught in two different semesters and at times students may get another teacher for the second half. During the fall and spring a meeting takes place with NMS discussing their SS curriculum. C. Dietter believes that consulting with MS is important and their recommendations for course level have been on target.

Public Participation: none

Meeting adjourned: 12:15

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler