

Newtown Board of Education
Newtown, CT
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes from the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting held February 24, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the BOE Conference Room.

J. Vouros M. Ku J. Evans Davila S. Earle M. Hall D. Petersen
E. Holst-Grubbe S. Stamm

J. Vouros called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

J. Vouros made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2017 meeting. M. Ku seconded.

Public participation-none.

S. Earle, M. Hall and D. Petersen presented an update on Project Challenge which has two full-time and two part-time teachers of the gifted. Screening meetings are now done quarterly so students can now be identified and join Project Challenge at four different times during any given year.

OLSAT testing is given to all third graders in October. This year the letter reporting OLSAT results was rewritten. The letter now directs interested parents to the District website (Gifted Education) to access the parent questionnaire that is used in the ID process.

In cases where dual identification is suspected or to prevent excessive delays in identification, the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) is administered by the School Psychologist. Due to the fact that the OLSAT can only be used once a year, the District purchased the Cognitive Abilities Test for retesting and it can be administered by a certified teacher.

Project Challenge parent meetings will be continued this year along with teachers of the gifted participating in Open House, parent conferences, transition meetings, Math Night, STEAM night and other events.

In January, and this coming June, progress reports were distributed and will continue to be used in the future to provide feedback to parents.

E. Holst-Grubbe and S. Stamm presented Film Production I and II and Photography I and II.

The Film Curriculum gives students more exposure to many different genres and aspects of film production. They are now given the tools to critically analyze films of professionals and their peers, as well as develop projects in the areas of commercial advertising, documentary films, and fictional shorts. There are more hands-on opportunities for critical analysis and problem solving, which encourages and strengthens students' abilities to apply these skills in academic classes as well.

The Photography I and II curriculum updates the program to a full digital photography environment. This allows all students access to industry standard technology, equipment and applications. Students are introduced to camera settings and functions with digital cameras, instead of 35mm film cameras,

allowing them to immediately observe the results in adjusting settings such as aperture and shutter speed. This gives a deeper understanding of how controls relate to each other and affect the end result, whereas previously the end result was seen only after the darkroom developing.

J. Vouros motioned to adjourn. M. Ku seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Schaedler

These are draft minutes and subject to approval by the C and I subcommittee