

Newtown Board of Education
Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee held on October 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

J. Vouros
M. Ku
L. Rodrigue

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

Mr. Vouros moved to approve the minutes of September 25, 2018. Mrs. Ku seconded. Motion passes.

Mr. Vouros opened Public Participation – none

Kids in Crisis Program:

Dr. Rodrigue said the Kids in Crisis program was brought to her by Dorrie Carolan and Maggie Conway from the Newtown Parent Connection. This position is needed because there are issues still that affect our students who have societal issues and their own anxieties. The critical piece is that there is 24/7 counselor availability. This is what we need. Dr. Longobucco worked with this program in Fairfield.

Shari Shapiro and Denise Qualey gave a presentation on the Kids in Crisis Teen Talk program.

Ms. Shapiro said this program is in 10 middle and high schools and counselors are available during vacations and over the summer which is a critical component.

Dr. Rodrigue said we get to hire the counselor. Ms. Qualey said they bring the candidates to us to decide who is the best fit.

Ms. Shapiro said the counselors get integrated in the school community. They have clinical supervision once a week and training opportunities during the year.

Dr. Rodrigue said that Dr. Longobucco met with the social workers and school psychologists.

Dr. Longobucco said they are excited to have someone there to do the things they would like to do but don't have enough time.

Ms. Qualey said the staff will appreciate having someone to help with situations the students or families would not want to share with school staff. We share some details but try to keep it on a need-to-know basis. The counselor works with parents on information that is important for the school to know.

Ms. Shapiro said they are mandated reporters and sometimes it makes more sense for us to file a report rather than the school.

Mr. Vouros said the key is that our administrators will decide the personality that will be in their building.

Ms. Schwartz said they also do a complete assessment of the program each year.

Mrs. Ku asked if this will be a pilot program.

Dr. Rodrigue said this would pilot at the high school. Because of the half year time frame, we will be fully funded this year. Next year Kristen Larson feels we will have funding through the NOVO Grant for

the following year. We will have this year to see how it goes. She wanted to make sure that even though we choose the counselor, they are employed by Kids in Crisis.

Mr. Vouros asked why we can't take the other half of the money we aren't using this year and put someone in the middle school.

Ms. Shapiro said it may be closer to \$50,000 and will have \$10,000 left over for the following year. We could always run the program part time but it is best to be a full-time program.

Ms. Qualey said we have done it before but we don't encourage it. However, there are times they have helped with middle school students.

Ms. Shapiro said they also brought clinicians to Newtown for three weeks after the Sandy Hook tragedy and they worked with Donna Culbert for months.

Ms. Qualey said they also do a substance abuse evaluation on students.

Dr. Rodrigue asked them to be at the October 16 Board meeting.

Mrs. Ku moved that we recommend this pilot program to the Board of Education. Mr. Vouros seconded. Motion passes.

Growth Report:

Dr. Rodrigue spoke about the Smarter Balance achievement results and shared growth results provided by Mrs. Evans Davila.

Overview of November 6 Professional Development:

Dr. Rodrigue said the PD committee worked on the events for November 6. There are a number of presenters and vendors. At the end of the day the teachers and paras can complete the special education survey and meet with the consultants from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Vouros requested that this information be sent to the Board so they know the schedule for the November 6 professional development.

Public Participation - none

Mr. Vouros moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.