

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**  
**Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting**

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular  
Date of Meeting: 5/18/20 Minutes submitted by: Dominic Cipollone  
Members present: Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza  
Members absent:  
Other attendees: Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, Rich Sanzo, Maureen Kenny  
Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (5/18 at 7 p.m.)  
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/95843097779>  
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 958 4309 7779

**Meeting called to order:** at 7:00 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 27, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Rick noted that there was some information that needed correcting from last meeting. Greg said he would revise minutes to reflect correction.

III.A.1. Kim Tobey made a presentation on the new textbook proposal - *The Challenge of Democracy*. This book is Listed and recommended by College Board. The various concepts of each chapter are discussed in detail. The three Themes are: 1) Freedom, Order, Inequality; 2) Majoritarianism vs. Pluralism; 3) Globalization. Greg Flanagan noted the book reads well and should keep the reader engaged. The book does seem to lean to the left and most of the authors seemed to have a liberal bend, and he hopes the book brings both points of view to the reader. Dom agreed book leans left but he does like it, and he asked about the on-line support. (*Revised*)

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of April 27, 2020 as revised

Made by: Dominic Cipollone

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. End-of-year Covid-related Work**

**B. Summer Curriculum Work, Covid-related**

Julie Luby shared that the afterschool enrichment has been a big hit with 16 class offerings and over 300 participants. Teachers and students are loving it. There are classes from cooking to ASL and photography to Greek mythology. There will be a second round of enrichment classes, and the hope is that more high school students will participate. New classes will be based on teacher and student interest. Rich Sanzo pointed out that the classes are free thanks to the repurposing of the Derx Grant. Plans are in place for SPED summer school program to take place, and Greg Flanagan asked if there will be distance learning in the summer. Dr. Cosentino stated that she was not sure. There will be an end of the year individualized video message for students in K-5 which is one-to-one to close out the school year. Both Greg Flanagan and Stephanie Strazza pointed out and attested to the incredible work taking place at Consolidated to help children navigate in a new environment.

Stephanie Strazza indicated that the Social Emotional challenges in K-2 is a problem, and Dr. Cosentino pointed out that data is being collected and the students in K-5 will need more time in school this fall if we have a hybrid model. We will have to have to consider learning spaces and bus travel given the requirement of a 10:1 ratio of students to adult. There is the possibility of a

staggered schedule. Specials could be a problem. What is of primary concern is the safety of students, staff and teachers. Cafeteria may have to work with a grab and go model. We are trying to have as little movement as possible.

Dr. Cosentino discussed graduation and said plans are being finalized for graduation for Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. where students will take individual pictures at the high school, and then at 7:30 p.m., there will be screen speeches, pomp and circumstance. James D’Amico is leading the effort and organizing signage. Greg Flanagan asked why we can’t honor social distance while honoring our graduates and use the football field. Dr. Cosentino responded that we have a public health pandemic - a public health crisis.

Julie Luby shared that Foundations training will take place for K-2, and due to the current crisis, there will be more opportunity to tailor the PD for each grade.

Alyce Misuraca met with math publishers and will be deciding on the top two programs. The criteria are focus and coherence of standards within grade level, math fluency and the application of math standards in the real world, and the level of rigor within the programs. Our new paradigm requires a using a distance learning lens where we look at usability and adaptability of programs to support different teaching models.

Julie Luby pointed out that teachers and administration are having end-of-year vertical articulation meetings which are a good practice to use. It will address what was taught prior to school going virtual. The goal is to hone the curriculum and isolate the priority standards. Special attention is being given to students who may have experienced significant learning loss. It is too early to tell regarding student improvement or slippage in relation to academic performance overall. The plan is to provide additional support to students two weeks prior to school starting in August. Greg Flanagan asked if students will be retained and Julie Luby replied that they would not. Stephanie Strazza voiced concern regarding over identification of students and Julie Luby replied that these gaps are universal and instruction will be more personalized and individualized. Stephanie Strazza was concerned around how instruction will be provided as she was worried about state benchmarks. Dominic Cipollone pointed out that a positive of all this is that students are becoming more independent and organized, and teachers are getting better at differentiation of instruction. Rick Regan pointed out that revisiting school start time could help students deal with stress.

**C. Process to Plan for Next Year** - Julie Luby discussed the creation of a Roadmap to Next Year where the goal is to help our district go from crisis to back to normal. There will be the establishment of a steering committee and it will involve various stakeholders from our school community. There will be a three-pronged approach focusing on operational, teaching and learning, and social emotional. Rick Regan asked about recording of lessons for students who are quarantined and Julie Luby replied that there needs to be virtual learning time.

**D. Math Update** - Alyce Misuraca met with math publishers and will be deciding on the top two programs. The criteria are focus and coherence of standards within grade level, math fluency and the application of math standards in the real world, and the level of rigor within the programs. Our new paradigm requires a using a distance learning lens where we look at usability and adaptability of programs to support different teaching models.

**V. OTHER** - There was more discussion regarding safety and Dr. Cosentino stated that Dr. Sanzo is working with the nurses and the use of PPE. We will open safely. Rich mentioned that other countries, such as South Korea, Germany and Denmark are reopening school and we will be watching webinar observing what the structures are like and what everything looks like.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Greg Flanagan  
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Rick Regan  
**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:40 p.m.