

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

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum                      Meeting type: Regular  
Date of Meeting: 9/21/20                      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, Ed Sbordone  
**Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (9/21 at 7 p.m.)**  
**Web:** <https://zoom.us/j/99933929354>    **Dial In: (929) 205-6099**  
**Meeting ID:** 999 3392 9354

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 24, 2020 – Regular Meeting

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of August 24, 2020, as presented

Made by: Rick Regan

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Update on and Questions about Reopening** – Dr. Cosentino provided an update. High school started fulltime and buses were running late. The schedule needed some tweaking. The state requires 900 hours of instruction for the year. Stephanie asked about the length of the school day and Julie brought up that teachers need time for planning and collaboration. Julie said that this may look like one- and one-half hours on Wednesdays. Pat discussed the current situation at ELC and that the district was \$300,000 in the red. MHHS needs a Wilson teacher and the MS needs an ILS teacher. Pat also stated that it is difficult to find paras and SPED teachers. The state requires a maximum ratio of 38% SPED students to general education students and our ratios are lower. She also stated that we would save \$100K by reducing the ELC program to 3 classes. Julie Luby shared that we have 360 remote learners, or 17% of our students. Pat shared that kids are outside and parents are feeling good. Julie shared that five parents were upset regarding distance learning and she met with 4/5 of the families. Three parents were disappointed but it appeared that it was a parent scheduling issue. Stephanie brought up Addendum 12 regarding certified teachers and that in a 6 hour school day, half is synchronous. Dominic stated that teachers are expected to be many things and remote parents' expectations need to be addressed and managed. Julie stated that there is parallel learning and remote learners are getting the same experience. She also stated that the remote learner liaison is in place. She will provide weekly newsletters and instructional support. Pat stated that other districts are contacting us to understand how we managed reopening with all students. She said we are eons ahead of other districts. Alyce Misuraca stated that she did not believe remote learning was appropriate for our little ones. Julie Luby shared that mathematics curriculum units of study will be piloted in late September. Alyce said the decision to choose a curriculum will happen after January. Julie indicated that state assessment will take place in the spring and the SAT will happen as well. Greg Flanagan asked if the PSAT will happen and it was confirmed by Julie. Greg also voiced concern regarding the comfort level of the district in choosing math curriculum by January.

Stephanie Strazza asked if the lack of math coaches in K-8 will undermine the math program. Julie indicated that the topics selected for the pilot will be the ones teachers are comfortable teaching. The curriculum piloted in K-5 will be Bridges and Envision, and in 6-12 will be Envision and Illustrative math.

**B. Coherence Guides** - Alyce discussed what the last year is being referred to as the Gap Year. We are using guidance from Achieve the Core focusing on the major standards, and looking at intentions and outcomes, consistency and equity of content, teaching points, learning targets and success criteria. She stated that we will start slow for two-three weeks focusing on prior knowledge, small steps, and in weeks three and four we will start grade level work. K-5 will focus on reading, writing and math. Grades 6-8 will have coherence maps by content focusing on the major work in content. We will have a learning snapshot of what we did before March 2020, during remote learning and what did we miss. Alyce is working with department heads of grades 9-12, social studies and ELA together with a focus on standards and tasks.

**C. Assessment** – Greg asked, “Where are we?” Alyce stated a diagnostic assessment in K-9 is coming in the next few weeks, specifically in the first two weeks in October. Julie and Alyce discussed the assessment calendar. In the fall, we have a universal assessment called I-Ready. This is a K-9 individualized reading and math assessment. For K-3, select students will be assessed in the winter to identify who is below level. The OSLAT will be given in the winter to third graders to identify gifted and talented students. In K-5, Fountas & Pinnel will be launched from I-Ready. Alyce said the F&P full battery in January. The Dibels assessment will be used for students who score below proficiency on the I-Ready. Julie stated that the PSAT and the SAT will be administered on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. High school will be remote for non-test takers. Dominic indicated that an assessment calendar that is streamlined is more useful for all stakeholders. Alyce indicated that I-Ready helps inform instruction. Julie shared information regarding how our students did on AP exams this past school year. The percentage of students who scored a 3 or better this year was 75% which was an 9% increase from last year.

**D. Professional Learning** – Julie discussed PD for September 25<sup>th</sup> which is called Getting Good Data and it will focus on I-Ready. SeeSaw will be the focus for PD for K-3 The PD for October 13<sup>th</sup> is called How to Read the Data, and it will include a student data review.

**E. Math Update** – Alyce discussed the challenges in math, specifically the learning loss. This will be addressed with frequent formative assessments. For grades 3-8 Alyce will be working with the math department. Alyce acknowledged that working in groups is a challenge with social distancing regulations. Rick suggested more real-world math for students.

**F. Other** - none

**V. OTHER** - none

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Rick Regan  
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza  
**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:30 p.m.