

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

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum                      Meeting type: Regular  
Date of Meeting: 9/23/19                                  Place of Meeting: Central Office Conf. Rm.  
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette  
Members present: Dominic Cipollone, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan  
Members absent: Kathy Baker  
Other attendees: Julie Luby, Pat Cosentino, Lori Ferreira, Ed Sbordone

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 26, 2019 – Regular Meeting

**Motion:** To approve minutes of August 26, 2019

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Rick Regan

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS - None**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Board Discussion with the Newcomers: Impressions and Priorities -

Lori Ferreira has spent time in every one of the schools and reviewed documents that were shared. The K-5 program is where the timeline should be. Science is the next focus area and the plan is to work on this in the summer, after grades 6-8 and 9-12 are situated. Some elective courses such as Art and Music still have to be worked on. Grades 6-8 Social Studies, ELA, and Math are complete, Science needs work, and World Language has been started. Regarding the high school, NEASC came at a tough time. There have been changes in graduation requirements and standards had been in flux. There are Curriculum Maps (Scope and Sequence) for ELA, Social Studies, Math, and World Language. We have to write the curriculum, which started with a complicated template a few years ago, and we are starting to use a more simplified template. Science, Biology and Chemistry are in the process already. Lori Ferreira recommends a two year bridge plan to work on the test subjects first, which is a priority. All elementary will be done by the summer, HS academics next, and then fine arts a year and a half from now. We are hoping to have teachers' input and have them invested in the curriculum. Lori Ferreira will be a part of the discussions, will write up the curriculum, and bring it back for feedback. Teachers like to know the "why", not just the "what."

Julie Luby shared a YouTube video, "Rubik's Cube: A Question Waiting to be Answered," including problem solvers, critical thinkers, and student-centered learning. Professional Development for small group instruction is planned, including how to assess while kids are more active and classroom management. Some positive changes have been made recently. Julie Luby reported that she has been in all of the buildings and has met with all of the administrators. They are very excited and engaged, ready for high quality instruction. We want to start to drive all four schools into one unified approach, and with the excitement and passion Julie has seen, this is definitely possible. When test scores are released, administrators are invested in their success, reviewing the data and putting forward a lot of effort.

We keep trying different strategies, but haven't seen a systematic increase. We will be speaking with other schools in our DRG that have increased over time to see what they are doing. We will make good use of the data that we have, and we have a lot. Lots of good things are happening, and we just need to make it universal. Regarding ELA, 78% of our students leave the high school with the possibility of receiving a C+ or higher in freshman year. Regarding Math, 48% of our students leave the high school with the possibility of receiving a C+ or more freshman year. Concerning PSAT and SAT scores, Khan Academy can link students' PSAT results and create individualized programs that help them practice what is needed to increase their scores. Six hours of Khan Academy may increase their scores by 30 points. A review of Grades 3-8 SBAC ELA scores indicates that we are 10 points less than the top of our DRG. The 8th grade Math mean score for 2014-15 is now the mean score in 6th grade. There was discussion about AP courses, tests, and how students are doing. The data and resources/materials available to teachers are being reviewed. Problems have been identified and strategies will be put into place with the hope of seeing some success.

**V. OTHER - None**

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Dominic Cipollone  
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Rick Regan  
Meeting adjourned at: 9:01 p.m.