

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 5/20/19 Place of Meeting: Central Office conf. rm.
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette
Members present: Kathy Baker, Dominic Cipollone, Kimberly LaTourette, Rick Regan
Members absent:
Other attendees: Jason McKinnon, Joel Pardalis, Kerry O'Connor, Patrick McCormack, Samantha Mannion, Ed Sbordone

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 7, 2019 – Special Meeting

The following revision was made to the minutes:

Meeting called to order: at ~~4:00 p.m.~~ 11:00 a.m.

Motion: To approve minutes of May 7, 2019, as amended

Made by: Rick Regan

Seconded by: Dominic Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Grades K-2 Foundations Program - Information about this program was presented. It was developed through the Wilson program (Tier 3 reading program brought in just last year). Foundations can be used as a Tier 1, 2 or 3. All students benefit from the skills taught in this program. It is currently a Tier 2 program, and we want to make it a Tier 1. We want to make sure that all students get all of these skills and do not fall through the cracks. It was piloted at Consolidated. This program will be used along with Readers and Writers Workshops. Students will be reading real books to help with comprehension. There was interest in more information about how the district is meeting the needs of students with disabilities for comprehension. This program should help us identify a problem sooner. In the pilot groups, we saw the struggling students gain the most success. Teachers want a program where they can go faster or slower if needed, and this program provides that. The cost is \$30,000 for materials, plus training for each grade level (\$2500/trainer).

Motion: To bring the Foundations Program to the full Board of Education

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

B. Grades 3-5 Spelling Connections Program – Patrick McCormack, Kerry O'Connor and two students attended to present this information. The pros and cons of the two programs, Spelling Connections vs. Words Their Way (used since 2nd grade), were reviewed. The pros: it brings in other subjects, such as science, math and social studies; better understanding and more engagement; learning is more fun (poems, riddles, puzzles, "science of spelling"); students like the workbook, practice tests in the book. We have learned over the last 18 months that teachers were not using Words Their Way in the classroom. It was difficult to manage, for example, cutting words, keeping them in a ziploc bag, keeping track of the bags. Two classes on each grade level piloted Spelling Connections this year. This program is user friendly, researched based, can be used on a 3 or 5 day model. It is a spelling curriculum, including scope and

sequence for the year, and lessons for each day (just under 30 minutes) as follows:
Day 1: Connections to Thinking; Day 2: Connections to Vocabulary and Phonics; Day 3:
Connections to Reading; Day 4: Connections to Writing; Day 5: Assessment. Four different
programs were researched and it is believed that this is the best one of the four. It is a K-8
program and it is recommended for grades 3-5 only. The approximate cost is \$3000 per grade per
year. It can be differentiated for above and below grade level and ELL, including strategies for
teachers based on how students do on assessments.

Motion: To bring Spelling Connections for Grades 3-5 to the full Board of Education

Made by: Kimberly LaTourette

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. High School English Core Curriculum Update

An overview of 9-12 English Curriculum was presented, added front matter, put in the scope and
sequence for many of the courses. A flow chart of the courses was provided. A lot of work has
been done, but still more needs to be done. Independent reading and classroom libraries have
increased, surrounding students with high interest selections, giving them choice and time. Many
units are thematic so that they can apply it to their independent reading and life.

B. High School Social Studies Core Curriculum Update - An update of this curriculum
was shared. A flow chart of the courses was provided, with an attempt to embed American
Government into more of the courses beginning in 8th grade. Social Studies K-11 textbooks have
already been approved. K-5 Curriculum was approved this year, and 6-7 Curriculum was
approved last year. The discussion will continue next year.

V. OTHER

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kathy Baker

Seconded by: Kimberly LaTourette

Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at: 8:30 p.m.