

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

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 9/26/23

Minutes submitted by: Kim LaTourette

Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Stephanie Strazza

Members absent:

Other attendees: Ken Craw, Allyson Story, Dominic Cipollone, Ed Sbordone

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (9/26/23 at 7:00 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/97935913384>

Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 979 3591 3384

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. May 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting - approved by consensus

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Update Regarding Curriculum Analysis and Strategic Planning – Ken Craw talked about the analysis that was done by Judy Wilson and the importance of having a strong curriculum plan in place. The report will be available for the October meeting. She is analyzing where we are with the development of the curriculum and will help us determine the strengths, opportunities, etc. She did this via focus groups with all levels of the staff.

B. Discussion of New Legislation - Kindergarten Age Requirement – This new legislation will impact us in 2024. Children who are entering kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year must turn 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2024. If your child turns 5 on September 2, 2024 through September 1, 2025, they will enter kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year. The school needs to determine what this means for the district, as our PreK curriculum is aimed at three- and four-year-olds. Having five-year-olds may be slightly different. The school also needs to determine what criteria would look like to assess students who could be admitted "early." We need to determine what the ongoing rules will be moving forward.

C. Discussion of New Legislation - Personal Finance Graduation Requirement for the Class of 2027 With the class of 2027, it will be a requirement for all students to have a half credit personal finance class. We already have this in place, so we are in a good place.

D. Discussion of New Legislation - Play-based Learning – We are still finding out how play-based learning will need to be implemented and how it is being interpreted by the State. We believe we are in a good place with this. We added purposeful play into kindergarten. Allyson will be attending a seminar to understand what it would look like in 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades. This has to be implemented by July 1, 2024.

E. Information Regarding Reading Waiver – We submitted a waiver, and we will not hear back from the state until the end of November. We will need to have some contingencies in place for the budget process until we hear. We might have to use some of the state programs. There are seven approved programs. We currently have a strong program in place. We are still using the Teachers College model and we have spent the last two years looking at the standards to really understand them. We have been teaching that versus the whole Teachers College unit. We want to take our program to the next level. The district will come back with a recommendation once we know the status of the waiver.

F. Review of Curriculum Committee Topics Calendar - Reviewed the proposed topics for the remainder of the year were reviewed. Stephanie asked to have the grade-based grading that will happen in middle school as a topic. Social Studies will be done over the summer.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**V. OTHER** – none

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Stephanie Strazza  
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan  
**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:03 p.m.