

BOE Curriculum Committee

April 21, 2026

5:37 PM – 6:39 PM

Location: Central Office, 311 Hunting Hill Avenue, Middletown CT

Attendance

BOE Members Kelly Bee (Chair), Kim Riordan, Sheila Daniels

Administration Dr. Alan Addley (Interim Superintendent)
Colleen Fitzpatrick (Interim CAO)

Staff & Support —

Community — Angela Sosnovich

Proceedings

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at **5:37 PM** by Chair Kelly Bee.

1. Summer School Proposal (July 2026)

Colleen Fitzpatrick presented a proposal to bring back a district-run summer school program designed to maximize impact on student learning through a full-day, rigorous but supportive environment.

- **Logistics & Structure**

- **Dates:** July 6th to July 30th (4 weeks).
- **Schedule:** Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Wesley School (selected for air conditioning and space).
- **Target Population:** Approximately 250 students; rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders.
- **Eligibility:** Focused on students receiving Tier 2 support in ELA and Tier 3 students struggling in both ELA and Math.

- **Instructional Model**

- **Curriculum:**
 - **ELA:** Utilizing HMH Module 11 (content not reached during the standard school year) to maintain grade-level rigor.
 - **Math:** Utilizing specific Illustrative Math (IM) practice sections to reinforce core skills.

- **Daily Flow:** 30-minute "Meeting Zone" for community building/SEL, followed by rotating blocks of whole-group and small-group instruction (Teacher Table, Intervention Table, Independent Table).

- **Engagement:** Includes Project-Based Learning (PBL), daily recess (structured "human car wash" and field games), and SEL lessons (Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness, Compassion).
- **Mid-day Opportunities:** Potential partnerships with Mystic Aquarium (touch tanks), Home Depot (birdhouse kits), and Middletown High's Robotics team.
- **Staffing & Transportation**
 - **Staffing:** 1 Coordinator (interviews pending), 12 Teachers, Social Worker, 12 Interventionists, Paraprofessionals (for IEP support), Nurse, and a Gym Teacher.
 - **Transportation:** Hub-model (pick-up/drop-off at home schools). The district is prepared to pivot to alternative transport if families face barriers.

2. Kindergarten Preparatory Academy (KPA) Update

The committee discussed the status and success of the KPA, an "old school" style kindergarten environment created in response to the state's new age-eligibility laws (5 years old by Sept 1st).

- **Program Highlights**
 - **Philosophy:** Focuses on the "Gift of Time." It emphasizes inquiry, purposeful play, executive function, and self-regulation.
 - **Success Indicators:** KPA students entered standard kindergarten with a **69.36 percentile ranking** on BOY DIBELs benchmark, compared to a 53.0 percentile for non-KPA peers.
 - **Community Building:** High success with "Parent-Teacher Home Visits" (led by Dawn Dubay), achieving nearly 100% participation in the first year.
 - **Curriculum:** Creative Curriculum for transitions; focuses on fine motor development and social-emotional readiness.
- **Future Planning & Challenges**
 - **Attendance:** The district will track attendance more strictly, as KPA/Preschool attendance currently lags behind other cohorts.
 - **Waivers:** The district has set a high bar for early entry into standard Kindergarten to ensure that our youngest learners can access kindergarten curriculum and standards successfully.
 - **Scope:** There are currently 97 children eligible for KPA next year.
 - **Budget Discussion:** Dr. Addley noted the program costs approximately **\$1.2 million**. While not mandated, the committee discussed it as a "value judgment" and a preventative measure against future intervention costs.

3. Committee Discussion & Feedback

- **Staffing Support:** Support was expressed for the full-day summer school model to accommodate working parents and ensure child safety.
- **Resource Suggestions:** Committee members recommended reaching out to Home Depot for donated kits and the local high school for student volunteers.
- **Advocacy:** Members highlighted that KPA serves as an equity tool for families who cannot afford private preschool alternatives.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Action Items:

- Complete interviews for Summer School Coordinator.
- Post positions for Summer School teachers and interventionists.
- Finalize mid-day community enrichment partnerships (Mystic, Home Depot, Robotics).
- Update KPA data slides for the Board (emphasize total eligible students vs. survey respondents).