

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 2/24/20 Place of Meeting: Central Office Conf. Rm.
Minutes submitted by: Rick Regan
Members present: Dominic Cipollone, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza (arrived 7:03 p.m.)
Members absent: Greg Flanagan
Other attendees: Ed Sbordone, Julie Luby, Pat Cosentino

Meeting called to order: at 7:00 p.m.
Ed Sbordone was elevated to voting status.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 27, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 27, 2020

Made by: Rick Regan

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Course Proposals

- 1. Algebra I Workshop**
- 2. Geometry Workshop**
- 3. Algebra II Workshop**

Julie Luby presented three proposed new math workshops in support of our “math every day” initiative at the high school. These courses will be offered starting in the fall of 2020, and will be required for 9th grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade students that are below proficiency on the PSAT (currently this applies to about half of our students). 9th grade and 10th grade PSAT results will be the primary drivers, but students below proficiency on the 11th grade PSAT may be placed in a workshop as well. These workshops will provide group and individualized instruction. It was noted that we may need 1-2 sections above current staffing levels, and that professional development may be required.

Ms. Luby said the administration is considering offering the PSAT in 8th grade next year in order to identify students in need earlier. The committee also discussed adjusting the high school schedule in the future to ensure that instruction time is used most efficiently. Mr. Cipollone asked about the utilization of the Rebel 33 period; Dr. Cosentino said she would investigate with Principal D'Amico.

Motion: To recommend to the full Board the approval of the three new courses Algebra I Workshop, Algebra II Workshop, and Geometry Workshop.

Made by: Rick Regan

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

Recording of vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Next Generation Accountability Report – Dr. Cosentino explained the indicators and reviewed the results line-by-line for each school. The high school is below the state standard in the “Performance Index” (indicators 1a through 1f) and scored especially poorly in “Physical

Fitness” (indicator 11) and “Arts Access” (indicator 12). The high school is Category 3, but would be Category 2 if not for the < 95% participation rate of high needs students. The middle school is Category 3, but would be Category 2 if not for the science performance index gap. MHHS had poor growth (indicators 2a through 2d) and is Category 2. Consolidated School is Category 2.

There was discussion about addressing chronic absenteeism, and ensuring that the absence data is collected accurately (especially in the high school).

B. Staffing Decision Making Process – Dr. Cosentino explained that for each budget season they look at enrollment and class sizes to determine staffing levels. They also have to take into account larger or smaller than normal enrollment in particular grades.

C. Summer Math Update – Julie Luby explained that the middle school will pilot the “passport” program. Consolidated School will continue to use a program that was successful last summer. The high school will post a daily math SAT question on Instagram.

D. Math Update – Julie Luby said there will be professional development for K-9 staff to “unpack” the Common Core State Standards for math.

V. OTHER – none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Dominic Cipollone
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza
Meeting adjourned at: 8:37 p.m.