

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

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular  
Date of Meeting: 11/23/20 Minutes submitted by: Dominic Cipollone  
Members present: Dominic Cipollone, Greg Flanagan, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza  
Members absent:  
Other attendees: Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, James D'Amico, Bonny Marsicano, Catherine Hall, Ed Sbordone  
Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (11/23/20 at 7 p.m.)  
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/98347417194> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 983 4741 7194

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. October 26, 2020 – Regular Meeting

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of October 26, 2020, as presented

Made by: Greg Flanagan

Seconded by: Rick Regan

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. English Selectives** – Julie Luby began discussion of student choice – allows seniors to choose what they will study for senior English. Bonny Marsicano, English Department Chair, explained that it would include looking at diverse authors studies. We also discussed Humanities Pathways, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade – 11<sup>th</sup> grade received a survey. The top four selections were: 1. Sports and Outdoor Literature and its impact on civil rights; 2. Justice and Injustice – oppression and women's rights; 3. Film as Literature - modern and classic films; 4. Ethics, Persuasion, and Manipulation. We would also keep the senior humanities option which is the Perspectives course. She also added that we have 180 students in the senior class. Greg asked how many options were there. There were eight and these were the top four selected. 207 students were surveyed. Rick asked if we have the capacity to teach all of these courses. James added that the Pathways courses will spark an interest in reading.

**B. Math Workshop** – Catherine Hall, Math Department Chair, began by discussing that the math workshop will support students who did not meet the benchmark on the PSAT. Classes would meet for 80 minutes every other day in the regular class and 40 minutes every other day in the workshop class. Alyce began a discussion of the workshop time and stated that the teacher who is teaching the regular class will also teach the workshop class. Catherine included that it will include small group instruction, conferring and teacher feedback. Catherine agreed that math should be taught every day. Greg asked – how are kids are being selected for the math workshop? Catherine stated that there will be review of multiple data points for profile of students. Rick asked – what happens when students move out? answer - They will be in study hall. Dominic asked – what is the measure of success? – answer – student math profile. Greg asked – Do we have data that says we should not have math every day? Answer-math workshop.

**C. Gifted – This Year and Future Plans** – Julie stated that this year everyone is back in classrooms, including coaches. There is a mandate in CSDE stating that gifted students need to be identified. An instructional coach was hire for the middle school gifted students. This year we are working on an identification model. The OLSAT test measures school ability indices. It is given to third graders and it takes less than an hour. There are also response lessons which allow kids to self-identify. The class teacher stays and there is a parent and teacher checklist. The plan would be to

provide core curriculum for students who are gifted using social studies, in daily classes from 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**D. Teacher Clarity: PL and Work K-5** – Alyce – We are getting better at knowing what kids know and can do. High School and Middle School state guidance requires more formative assessment. Learning targets and feedback. In K-5 we are revisiting the standards – teachers gaining clear understanding of the standards. We are building practice around clear learning intentions. We are working on student clarity around what? why? and how? There is a lot of curriculum conversation through the K-12 continuum.

**E. CT Guidance for Priority Standards and Essential Learning Outcomes** – Alyce – CT finally released guidelines for K-5 learning outcomes. Prioritize, prepare and practice is the CT state document. Achievement Partners this CT work aligns the coherence guides.

**F. Math Update** – Grades 6-12 will be piloting exploration of new resources. There are two contenders. We will pilot a unit of instruction with a January to March time frame. Envision or McGraw-Hill Illustrative program. In K-5 we are still in exploration and looking at The Bridges program. Greg asked if we will have professional development and Julie said the work will start this spring. Coaches will lead the teachers. Alyce – We need to give teachers a resource and implementation training before the summer.

**V. OTHER** - Greg mentioned the “Killing Series” and Julie said that copies were purchased.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by: Greg Flanagan  
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza  
**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:40 p.m.