

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Special
Date of Meeting: 12/16/24 Minutes submitted by: Tim Blair
Members present: Kathy Baker (until part D), Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan
Members absent: Sue Huwer
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Kristine Woleck, Karen Gruetzner, Dom Cipollone, Ed Sbordone, Jack Guliano, Casey Hounsell, Rowena Zylali, Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia, Casey Aiezza
Special Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (12/16/24 at 7:00 p.m.)
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/96771620622> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 967 7162 0622

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 25, 2024 – Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of November 25, 2024, as presented

Made by: Greg Flanagan

Seconded by: Tim Blair

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. NFPS Orchestra Program Development and Course Proposal - Dr. Woleck introduced Jack Giuliano and Casey Hounsell. Mr. Giuliano spoke about the growing number of students in Orchestra and the potential for interest in moving up with it into High School if available. Mr. Hounsell talked about finding a way to provide consistency and a sequential program from 3rd-12th grade, which would make a much stronger overall experience. They are asking for one additional full-time orchestra teacher to ensure we can provide access 3-12 to orchestra lessons, ensure skill development and grow a strong program of young musicians. We discussed details such as space, number of students, a full schedule for the potential new teacher and resources to support this potential.

Dr. Craw answered a few questions around this ask.

B. Bilingual Services - Dr. Woleck talked about the CT State Statute regarding Bilingual Education Requirements. She provided the current district statistics that show we currently have 91 students K-12 that are Multilingual learners and we currently have 1.2 FTE dedicated to EL services. She proceeded to discuss the fact that our next steps are to request to have a new full time certified bilingual teacher to provide the level of support and services needed to accommodate the growing number of English learners and Bilingual students in the district. Rowena Zylali also spoke briefly about the growing population of English learners in the district.

C. Middle School World Language Update - Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia presented. He spoke about the change in September where we allowed students to take full year either Spanish or French in Middle School. There is much positive coming from this change and teachers and students are excited about this learning. He spoke about areas needed to improve, including the development of more robust and developmentally appropriate curriculum. Teachers have noted that there is a need of finding balance between using technology and more traditional approach, where currently they feel there is too much emphasis on technology. Our approach is to use this feedback to refine the curriculum to provide better learning and understanding. We are looking to introduce a new diagnostic tool in the spring to identify areas of strength in the program, and improve on the areas of opportunity. Our goal is to obtain a high percentage (around 70%) of students who receive the seal of Biliteracy as the benchmark of success of the program. Karen Gruetzner spoke about the process of thinking of how to grow the program with the space limitations and using our schedule to help prioritize the needs of this program.

Dom Cipollone was elevated to voting member, as Kathy Baker had to exit early.

D. Adapted PE Overview - Casey Aiezza presented. She talked about the APE Philosophy, the Mission Statement in providing PE to individuals who receive special education in their least restrictive environment. She talked about the development of the program from 2020 to present. Ultimately, we will be well equipped to meet the needs of our students in this area.

Motion: To move the Orchestra proposal to the full Board

Made by: Greg Flanagan

Seconded by: Tim Blair

Recording of vote: All in favor

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Tim Blair

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 8:15 p.m.