

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

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Special  
Date of Meeting: 9/27/22 Minutes submitted by: Tim Blair  
Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Stephanie Strazza  
Members absent:  
Other attendees: Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, Ken Craw, Andrew Gadwah, Dom Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Kim LaTourette  
Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (9/27/22 at 7:30 p.m.)  
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91919273910> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 919 1927 3910

Meeting called to order: at 7:30 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting – Approved by consensus

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. New Textbook Adoption**

**1. *Pop, Rock, & Soul Reader, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition***

Andrew Gadwah spoke about this textbook, what it covers as a historical perspective with key figures in American Popular music and the need for it in this class.

**2. *American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition***

Andrew Gadwah spoke about this textbook, how it is derived as a supplemental text and the recommendation from UConn for both texts as part of the ECE class that is already started this semester. A cost question of 10 books at \$69.00 each and 10 books at \$114 each was affirmed by Julie Luby as already in the current budget. A question by July Luby to Andrew Gadwah was would it be beneficial for the Board to move these books quickly as to allow time for them to be implemented in this current semester was affirmed. Stephanie Strazza commented the Board could vote to suspend the rules in order to move this needed text quicker at the next regular meeting.

**Motion made by:** Stephanie Strazza

**Seconded by:** Greg Flanagan

To present to the full board Action Item A.1.

**Recording of vote:** Motion passes unanimously

**Motion made by:** Stephanie Strazza

**Seconded by:** Greg Flanagan

To present to the full board Action Item A.2.

**Recording of vote:** Motion passes unanimously

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Update on the Science of Reading** – Alyce Misuraca gave a comprehensive report on the simple view of reading (the science of reading) - word recognition & language comprehension = reading comprehension. Alyce indicated CT has not yet provided a recommended reading plan. This plan would be implemented in hopes of providing a proper reading plan for our district that would later satisfy any coming CT plan requirements. Alyce indicated we adopted core programs we had in place. She indicated that one area discovered that we needed to improve on is phonics. At all levels, we are doing i-Ready, which is now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. From that we are finding and identifying outliers in students who are struggling in phonological awareness. Stephanie Strazza asked what resources to do we have for kids that are falling into the grade 3-5 category and have used our current programs and are still falling one or two grade levels behind. Alyce indicated that program is called “Bridge the Gap.” She added that we are ensuring the phonics piece in place and if not, that is the intervention would take place. Stephanie Strazza

asked when the i-Ready data would be coming out and Alyce indicated that it was finishing up. Stephanie indicated she would be curious to see that data as soon as it becomes available. Alyce indicated it would be a good way to peel back the data and dive deeper into how to get to the core of the issue. Discussion ensued as to the data and how its collection could not be apples to apples going back further than 2 years since it was a different collection program. Tim Blair asked about how that data would compare going back before the pandemic using a different program; Star compared to now since there is 2 years of data where children were masked. Stephanie explained the difference between Star, the old system and now with i-Ready. Alyce indicated that was a national problem in developing readers given the 2 years those 2-3 grade learners had with phonics and the challenges those barriers brought for 2 years. Greg Flanagan asked if there had been an increase in dyslexia identified with the new i-Ready system. Alyce indicated that we would see some of those key indicators sooner with this program. Dominic Cipollone asked a 3-part question regarding the state requirements, what we will implement here and if the state does have a program that we want to do we have to pay for that program. Julie Luby indicated that the state has not indicated anything yet but speculation that eventually the state will ask we implement one of their programs, or we prove that what program we are currently using will satisfy any future state requirements that in which case we could apply for a waiver. There was speculative discussion based on predictions on how a waiver can be achieved.

**B. District Instructional Strategy Map** – Julie Luby shared a comprehensive overview of the district's instructional strategy map and how it is a tool for systematic growth and leading to our Vision of the Graduate.

## **V. OTHER**

### **A. Topics for Future Meetings**

#### **1. Update on the New Fairfield Gifted Program** (October meeting)

#### **2. Coaching Model** (October meeting)

Dominic Cipollone mentioned he thought we would discuss our social studies program and some of its deficiencies, particularly in the High School and why some of our focus is in certain areas and not in more subject specific areas in our most recent century. Julie Luby mentioned that we are anticipating the state to soon publish updated social studies frameworks. She mentioned that they should be out by mid-year. Stephanie Strazza agreed we need to look at this and could identify where the opportunities are.

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

Seconded by: Kathy Baker  
**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:26 p.m.