

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 10/26/20 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, Ed Sbordone
Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (10/26 at 7 p.m.)
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/92624943866> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 926 2494 3866

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 21, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 21, 2020, as presented

Made by: Rick Regan

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. High School Pathways - James D'Amico discussed High School Pathways. Everyone working together is taking a critical look at the high school program, including test scores, curriculum, and instruction. Overall, there is some complacency in the school culture. The program of study has not changed since 1994. The high school model hasn't adapted to the changing needs of students and the world. The resources available include: ECE at WestConn, Virtual H.S. and Project Lead the Way which is STEM based and this can be applied to structure CTE. We need more students to make connections with educators. We are trying to create college and career pathways with students acting as contributors, not just consumers of education. This will dovetail with graduation requirements. The structure would include Health & Applied Sciences, Arts & Design, and Computer Science. Eight years from now students will be able to build their own program – build your own pathway, students will create their own program. Greg Flanagan mentioned "What color is your parachute?" as a tool to help guide kids to a career path. He applied a sports analogy to a business pathway. Dominic Cipollone mentioned aligning Pathways with Core 21 so we could start to prepare kids in middle school. James stated that we need to upgrade the business curriculum, possibly aligning sports and business. Rick Regan saw this as a catalyst to reinvent the high school. Stephanie Strazza was excited about improving the arts program.

B. iReady Implementation Update – Julie Luby explained that we lost time due to remote learning. The goal was to reach the 10th and 11th grade. There was a 96% implementation except for the high school. Teachers really worked together to get remote learners tested.

C. US News and World Report Rankings - Julie Luby gave us the breakdown of this report and explained that it weighs college readiness and college breadth at 40% each. New Fairfield ranked #40 of 169 high schools in CT. She also stated that 61% of students took at least one AP exam and 37% passed at least one exam. We have a 98% graduation rate.

D. Math Update - Alyce Misuraca discussed how teachers were looking at i-Ready data. They were looking at standards and gaps. The data was delivered in user friendly reports. Dominic, Greg and Stephanie all agreed that math needs to be taught every day. Alyce stated that November 3rd PD on math and identifying and using the new math programs. So far feedback from students regarding instruction is that it is an improvement from the spring.

V. OTHER - Greg discussed a series of non-fiction texts that read like novels from author Bill O'Reilly. They are known as the Killing Series. He believed they would support social studies by providing interesting historical reading for students. Rick mentioned student breakout conference rooms and whether there were any controls. Dominic discussed rubrics and requested they would be discussed at the next curriculum meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Rick Regan
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan
Meeting adjourned at: 8:15 p.m.