

Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2022 7:00 PM

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (2/28/22 at 7 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/96295927507> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 962 9592 7507, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II.A. January 24, 2022 - Regular

III. ACTION ITEMS

III.A. New Course Proposal: Reading for Content

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

IV.A. New Fairfield High School Writing Center

IV.B. EnVision Math Update

IV.C. Website Update

IV.D. March 4 Professional Learning

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 1/24/22 Minutes submitted by: Kathy Baker
Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Stephanie Strazza
Members absent:
Other attendees: Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, James D'Amico, Dominic Cipollone, Amy Johnson, Ed Sbordone
Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (1/24/22 at 7 p.m.)
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/98424955377> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 984 2495 5377

Meeting called to order: at 7:02 p.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIR – Added to the agenda by a motion made by Kathy Baker, seconded by Tim Blair, all in favor.

Motion: To nominate Stephanie Strazza for Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee.

Made by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: Aye - 3 - Kathy Baker, Greg Flanagan, and Stephanie Strazza
Nay - 1 - Tim Blair

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 22, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of November 22, 2021, as presented

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Upcoming NAEP Testing – Alyce Misuraca presented on the upcoming NEAP Testing. Participation is a random sample. Testing occurs across the country and captures student achievement. Testing will happen in February.

B. Early Reading Data - Julie Luby reported on Grade 1 and 2 early reading data. The on/above numbers are not where we would like them to be; however, this is a nationwide challenge right now due to the pandemic. The schools are putting measures in place in order help our kids catch up by the end of the year, with below and approaching getting more support/intervention.

C. ECE Courses - What they are; How they work; How widespread they are at our HS
Julie Luby presented the number of ECE (Early College Experiences) we have at NFHS – next year we will offer ten courses in the areas of math, language, science, English and music. Students can choose to dually enroll in these courses so that they earn college credit as well as high school credit. Four are through WestConn and six are through UConn. In the 2016 - 2017 school year we offered just two ECE courses. It gives the students a great experience and allows them to realize that they are capable of taking a college level class.

D. High School Block Scheduling - Advantages and Disadvantages - James D'Amico and the subcommittee discussed in depth the pros and cons of a block schedule. After much discussion, it was determined that it would be best to have an advisory committee formed to fully look into it. Dr Pat is the sponsor, James will run it and it will be made up of students, staff, teachers, BOE, parents, etc. The final decision on what to do will lie with the principal and superintendent. Any changes would not be implemented until the 2023/24 school year, when we move into the new high school. It could help as well if we want to have the MS/HS on the same schedule.

V. ACTION ITEMS - none

V. OTHER - Alyce Misuraca informed the subcommittee about a mini math camp that was held in January for 6th graders. Students who were struggling were invited to attend and they had one- to-one and small-group meetings over a four-day period (after school). They are thinking about doing it on a monthly basis and including 7th and 8th grades.

Public Comment

Wendy Sullivan raised a concern about the reading material available in the 6th grade classrooms. Mrs. Sullivan was advised to raise her concerns with her child's teacher, and Julie Luby also advised she would be in contact with her to discuss this further.

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

Seconded by: Kathy Baker
Meeting adjourned at: 8:18 p.m.

New Fairfield Public Schools

New Course Proposal

Directions:

Before completing this form, please discuss this proposal with the appropriate administrator(s) in your school. Complete this proposal form thoroughly, and attach any supporting documentation that would help the Board of Education's Curriculum Sub-Committee understand this proposal better. Be sure that you adhere to all deadlines, and be certain to acquire all required signatures. To ensure that a course can be properly planned for, if it is intended for a coming school year, please complete it by October 31. All other proposals can be forwarded at any time of the year.

Course Being Proposed Reading for Content (Working title)

Proposal submitted by: James D'Amico, Bonny Marsicano and Julie Luby

School New Fairfield High School

1. Indicate the department/grade level in which this course/program will run.

This will be a grade 9 Reading class.

2. Please indicate if the new course or instructional program is a semester long or year long, and indicate the applicable grade levels. Please indicate the course level if applicable.

This is a year-long course that will meet for 1/2 of a block, awarding 1/2 credit for the full year.

3. Please give the rationale for this proposal, and include its relationship to the past, current and future development of curricular offerings in New Fairfield.

The purpose of this course is to provide a regular education intervention for students who are entering 9th grade as non-proficient readers.

4. Please indicate the target population for this proposal.

9th grade students who are below grade level readers whose needs are in the area of reading comprehension, and who are not receiving other support in reading.

5. Please explain if this course or instructional program is an addition or a replacement for an existing course or program.

This is a new offering, although there have been other variations of this course in the past.

6. List any prerequisites for this course or instructional program.

n/a

7. Please write a short description of the new course or instructional program that would be suitable for the high school *Program of Studies* or for a curriculum document.

This reading course will support students in further developing their skills of comprehending nonfiction text. The Grade 9 Social Studies reading materials will be used in the course, thereby providing students with the opportunity to pre-read as well as to gain a deeper understanding of course texts and content.

8. Please list the long-term course or program goals that define the broad outcomes that this course or program seeks to help students achieve.

The goal of this course will be to have students reach grade level benchmarks in reading.

9. Please indicate what topics, units, or material will be used to meet the long-term goals listed above. What assessment strategies will be used in this course or program? What are the unique components of this course or program content that make it a worthwhile addition for our students?

This course will teach specific reading comprehension strategies for nonfiction reading. The grade 9 social studies course, World History I, will be used for reading material on which students can learn and practice their reading skills. Newspaper articles about current events may also be included.

10. Please enumerate the resources – both human and financial – that you anticipate will be needed to develop this course or program correctly. What impact would this proposal have on scheduling, staffing, and resources? Consider training, equipment and space needs.

