

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, March 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Humiston Building - Board Room, 2nd Floor

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair) and Anne Harrigan

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal-Cheshire High School; Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal-Cheshire High School; Tracy Hussey, Director of Pupil Personnel; Cathy Sullivan, Health and Physical Education Department Chair

Community Members Present:

Michael Gagne (Record-Journal)

Faith Ham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Public Comment

None

2. Review Minutes of February 10, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2020 meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Informational Items

- a. Nature's Classroom, Ivoryton, CT - Highland Grade 6 - May 13-15, 2020
- b. Nature's Classroom, Wakefield, RI - Chapman Grade 6 - May 18-22, 2020
Marlene Silano shared details regarding the annual grade six trips to Nature's Classroom. The Nature's Classroom trip highlights hands-on learning, science, and nature, as well as team building. The cost of each trip for students is reduced by fundraising.
- c. Status of Out-of-Country Field Trips
Marlene Silano reviewed the status of out of country field trips. The three field trips scheduled for April to Spain, Ecuador/Galapagos Islands, and England have all been canceled due to travel recommendations. The committee discussed the appropriate process for rescheduling these trips for the 2020-21 school year to ensure students could use their travel vouchers before 9/30/2021 or transfer them to another student in the school.
- d. Freshman Orientation Update
Dr. Mary Gadd gave an update of the Curriculum and Activities Night created for next year's incoming freshman class which was held on January 30, 2020. Staff from the high school share with parents what a typical school day/year looks like for incoming freshmen. Students

connect with teachers, athletics, clubs, and other activities. Information was also shared on the support available to students to help with a successful transition to high school.

e. Professional Development Update

Kevin Hanlon provided a review of some of the professional development activities since the last Curriculum Committee meeting. Activities included math fluency work at Norton School, Dodd math and language arts teachers examining mid-year data to inform instructional practices, and Dodd science teachers working with the Connecticut Science Center to use Next Generation Science Standard assessments and instructional practices to support students.

f. OLSAT (Otis Lennon School Ability Test) - Parent Letter

Kevin Hanlon noted that grade three students took the Otis Lennon School Ability test last week. The attached letter was sent to parents prior to the test administration, and results will be shared with families later in the school year.

g. Signs of Suicide (SOS) Curriculum for Secondary Students

Tracy Hussey and Cathy Sullivan shared a presentation on the Signs of Suicide Curriculum for secondary students. The presentation included information regarding alignment to Healthy Behaviors Standards, lesson samples, resources, and parent communication.

h. Public Act No. 19-12 - An Act Concerning the Inclusion of African-American Studies in the Public School Curriculum

Faith Ham, Chair of the Board of Education Curriculum Committee, shared information from the Special Education Research Center (SERC) focus group she attended which was designed to solicit input and feedback on the development of a high school course to meet the requirements of Public Act No. 19-12.

4. Adjourn

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan). The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator