

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee (Virtual)

Monday, June 8, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

### Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair), Anne Harrigan

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Dr. Jeff Solan, Superintendent; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal-Cheshire High School; Mike Papa, Director of Technology; Tom Lewoc and Scott Conway, Technology Integration Specialists; Barbara Jacobs, Supervisor of Technology Support

Community Members Present: None (see note below regarding correspondence in Public Comment)

**1. Public Comment**

Mr. Jack Bestor sent a correspondence regarding the use of the Otis Lennon Assessment to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. The Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Marlene Silano, indicated that the use of this particular assessment is under review for the future. Additionally, Mr. Jack Bestor sent a separate correspondence sharing articles related to continuing in a remote learning environment in the fall, and meeting the needs of all students, especially the most vulnerable.

**2. [Review Minutes of May 11, 2020 Meeting](#)**

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 11, 2020 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. New Business**

**a. Peck Jones Grant Request**

Marlene Silano presented a proposal for the Peck Jones Grant. The request for this year's grant is to enhance the availability of quality reading materials in classroom and school libraries for students in grades K-12. The focus of the funds would be to increase the number of quality higher-level texts in the primary grades, increase the number of non-fiction resources in the intermediate grades, and enhance reading materials relative to race, diversity, and culturally responsive instruction at elementary, middle and high school..

Anne Harrigan made a motion to forward the Peck Jones grant proposal to enhance K-12 classroom and school libraries as presented to the full Board of Education for approval. Faith Ham seconded the motion. Anne Harrigan and Faith Ham voted for the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**4. Informational Items**

- a.** Digital Media Foundations - Shift in college credit granting institution from UConn to Naugatuck Community College

Dr. Mary Gadd, Cheshire High School Principal, gave an update on the Digital Media Foundations course and the related Early College Experience (ECE) credit. The course was previously approved for ECE credit from the University of Connecticut (UConn). On April 29, the district received notice from UConn that it would no longer be offering the Digital Media Foundation ECE program. That course, however, may be offered as ECE credit through Naugatuck Community College. Dr. Gadd anticipates that this plan will be finalized prior to the start of the next academic year.

- b.** Business courses to be articulated with Tunxis Community College

Dr. Mary Gadd gave information regarding a potential partnership with Tunxis Community College to add college credit to a series of Cheshire High School (CHS) Business classes. Currently, CHS and Tunxis are working to finalize an agreement. Once finalized, the program of studies would be amended to reflect the college credit opportunities for students.

- c.** Remote Learning Foundational Tools

Marlene Silano gave an update regarding technology-related tools for the 2020-21 Remote Learning Plan. An emphasis of the plan is to be able to move nimbly between in-person learning, remote learning, or some hybrid thereof. Essential software tools to enact the curriculum, developmentally appropriate devices for all students, and appropriate devices for instructional staff were all discussed as part of the plans moving forward. The technology team (Mike Papa, Tom Lewoc, Scott Conway, and Barbara Jacobs) answered questions on the viability and details of various parts of the plan. One note from the discussion was the plan, through redistribution of devices and reallocating technology funds, is cost neutral and will not pose any increase to the technology hardware budget.

**5. 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 7:58 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kevin J. Hanlon**

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator