

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, September 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Humiston Building - Board Room, 2nd Floor**

Minutes

Attendees: Anne Harrigan, Tony Perugini, Rich Gussenburg, Kathryn Hallen, Adam Grippo, Marlene Silano, Kevin Hanlon, Mary Gadd, Maureen Reed, Tina Ocone, Tracy Hussey, Dr. Golda Ginsburg.

Anne Harrigan called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Review Minutes of June 5, 2019 Meeting

Tony Perugini made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 5th meeting. Anne Harrigan seconded the motion. A. Harrigan, T. Perugini, and K. Hallen voted to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 meeting. R. Gussenburg abstained. The motion passed.

2. New Business

a. Out-of-Country Field Trip Request,

- Rennes and Paris, France 6/29-7/15/20

Tina Ocone shared information on a field trip to Rennes and Paris France. Changes from previous similar exchange trips included adjusting the timeline to have the exchange during the summer to allow the maximum participation by students and have a full experience (2 weeks) for the students. The French schools will be in session during the exchange trip.

Discussion included the student/teacher ratio as well as financial considerations for those who may not be able to fully pay for the trip.

Rich Gussenburg made a motion to approve the trip as presented, and move it to the full board for consideration. Tony Perugini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. New Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Graduation Requirements

Mary Gadd and Maureen Reed provided an update on CHSs progress on the new high school mastery based graduation requirement. Maureen reviewed Public Act No.

17-42 which required districts develop a one credit mastery based diploma assessment. Maureen noted that the experience could be completed Junior or Senior year. Multiple pathways for completion of this requirement were discussed.

3. Old Business

- a. **Personalized Learning Task Force (PLTF) Recommendations**
Marlene Silano shared an overview of the PLTFs recommendations. A representative group of 34 individuals including parents, students, community members, teachers and administrators comprised the group.
A set of recommendations from the PLTF was reviewed by Assistant Superintendent, Marlene Silano. Eleven recommendations with accompanying details and rationale were presented.

Marlene Silano read a section of the recommendations for the record: It is important to separate the issue of personalized learning and a platform. There is universal support on the Task Force for the definition of personalized learning, vision of a graduate, and the desire to fulfill both. The platform and approach are a separate entity and we believe that the safeguards in place around piloting, informing, creating clear goals and expectations for new programs will ensure that we will grow and adopt approaches that are better vetted and executed.

The recommendations will be reviewed at the full BOE business meeting on September 19. Additionally, the Strategic Committee will consider the recommendations.

Public comments pertaining to the PLTF recommendations were made by: Mary Burnham (45 Tress Rd), Jack Bestor (45 Tress Rd), Julia Kile (75 Harrison Road), Cathy Hellreich (525 Wood Hill Road), and Gary Riccini (27 East Ridge Ct)

4. Informational Items

- a. **Dr. Golda Ginsburg, UCONN Department of Psychiatry**
Tracey Hussey, PPS Director, introduced Dr. Ginsburg. Dr. Ginsburg spoke about TAPES (Teacher Anxiety Program for Elementary Students) and CALM (Enhancing the Capacity of Student Nurses to Reduce Child Anxiety) Dr. Ginsberg shared that this is a research study funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, part of the US Federal Department of Education, and a free opportunity for teachers to learn how to assist students who struggle with anxiety. Teachers would be part of a study on the effectiveness of one of two training methods. The program is voluntary, teachers would be paid, principals will be notified and give approval, and the training would happen outside of school time.

- b. Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Results
Marlene Silano presented the results of the recently released Smarter Balanced Assessment.
It was noted that SBA provides one piece of information which helps inform program evaluation, school analysis, district analysis, and the state accountability model.

This year Cheshire Public Schools saw increases in student performance for both ELA and Math: 83% and 75% of students achieving the standard respectively.

Ranked 9th (ELA) and 13th (Math) in the state.

Ranked 2nd (ELA) and 5th (Math) in DRG B.

5. Adjourn

Tony Perugini made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Gussenburg. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:54 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator