

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee (Virtual)

Monday, April 19, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair), Anne Harrigan, and Tony Perugini

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Mike Woods - Principal, Dodd Middle School; Kelly Grillo - Principal, Norton School; Tim Galvin - Social Studies Department Chair, Cheshire High School; Kristin Giuliano - Social Studies Division Leader, Dodd Middle School; Jeanne Monti - Norton RAM; Lori Holm - Academically Gifted Program Teacher

Community Members Present:

None

1. Public Comment

No messages received from the public via the CPSCovid19 email address prior to the public comment portion of the meeting.

2. [Review Minutes of March 9, 2021 Meeting](#)

- a. Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 9, 2021 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Perugini seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting. Mr. Perugini abstained from voting. The motion passed.

3. New Business - none

4. Old Business - none

5. Informational Items

a. [Cheshire Curriculum Council \(CCC\) AGP Executive Summary Presentation](#)

Ms. Lori Holm, Academically Gifted Program(AGP) teacher, gave an executive summary of the AGP presentation to the CCC on March 17, 2021. Some key points of the executive summary include that the remote services for AGP this past year have allowed students to complete a greater quantity of academics with frequent teacher feedback; teachers have

received regular updates on student progress from the AGP teacher; remote engagement in the academies in the future can allow students to continue to dive deeply into the learning of the academies; future in-person sessions will focus on Social Emotional Learning for students in the AGP program.

b. [Cheshire Curriculum Council \(CCC\) Social Studies Executive Summary Presentation](#)

Mr. Tim Galvin (CHS Social Studies Department Chair), Ms. Kristen Giuliano (Dodd Social Studies Division Leader), Ms. Jeanne Monti (Norton RAM), and Mr. Kevin Hanlon (K-8 Curriculum Coordinator) gave an executive summary of the Social Studies presentation to the CCC on April 6, 2021. An anchor point for the summary was the connection to the four dimensions of inquiry that are a foundation of the C3 (College, Career, and Civic Life) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

The elementary portion of the presentation shared that alignment to the C3 Framework has predominantly happened within the grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum. Making the shift to the C3 Framework in the other grade levels will be a priority in the next CCC cycle. Focusing on the dimensions of inquiry, having more performance-based assessments, updating curricular resources, and providing appropriate professional development to teachers are essential components of the plan.

The middle school curriculum is predominantly grounded in geography standards (7th grade) and history standards (8th grade). The development of the curriculum not only includes these standards but also key social studies themes, connection to Connecticut Core Standards, and having students work through all four dimensions of the inquiry process. Future work will include updating additional units to align with the C3 Framework.

At the high school level, alignment to the C3 Framework emphasizes literacy skills, democratic preparation, student inquiry, and opportunities for authentic application. Future goals in part include expanding and diversifying elective offerings to include a more global perspective, creating a Social Studies Learning Library, explore opportunities to increase opportunities for student-led inquiry, and reinstating the Annual Literacy Assessment. All levels shared samples of student work and experiences that provide opportunities for students to communicate conclusions and/or take informed action.

c. Update on teacher professional development

Kevin Hanlon provided an update on the March 12, 2021, professional development day. While the day still supported navigating the school year during a pandemic, there was also an element of looking beyond this year embedded in the work of the day. The majority of elementary teachers participated in professional development sessions provided by Eureka trainers, the authors of our math program. This was a PD session that was originally planned for March of 2020 prior to the pandemic. The middle school divisions and high school departments focused on diving into one or more aspects of the Acceleration Framework and applying their learning to their collaborative planning for this year and next.

d. Summer Transition Program

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, provided an overview of plans for a summer transition program for our current remote learners. The program is planned for two weeks in mid-August and designed to help students who have been remote since March of 2020 to transition back into the buildings for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

e. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trip

● [Dodd Middle School - Washington, DC - May 26-28, 2021](#)

Mike Woods, Principal of Dodd Middle School, gave an overview of the planned eighth grade trip to Washington DC toward the end of May. The trip will have an overall itinerary that is similar to previous years and will include a host of safety precautions due to Covid-19. Some of those precautions are likely to include Covid testing for each student prior to the trip, appropriate filtration and circulation on buses, keeping students in small cohorts, masking, and staggered itineraries to reduce numbers at each site.

6. Adjourn

- a.** Mr. Perugini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harrigan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Ms. Ham, Ms. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini). The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator