

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee (Virtual)

Monday, June 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Faith Ham (Chair) and Tony Perugini

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal - Cheshire High School (CHS); Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Dawn DeMeo, English Teacher (CHS); Erin Griffiths, Social Studies Teacher (CHS)

Community Members Present: None

1. **Public Comment**

Michael Sheehan (no address provided) submitted a letter to the CPSCovid19 email address prior to the meeting. The letter regarded concerns about the state, SERC (State Education Resource Center), and the district work related to race, equity, social justice, and systemic racism and the African American, Black, Puerto Rican, and Latino Studies course. The letter was read in full at the meeting for the record.

2. **[Review Minutes of May 10, 2021 Meeting](#)**

Mr. Perugini made a motion to table the approval of the minutes from the May 10, 2021 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Mr. Perugini voted to table the approval of the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting until the next Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting. The motion to table passed.

3. **New Business**

a. Out-of-Country Field Trip Request

- [Puerto Rico, CHS, April 18-24, 2022](#)

1. [Link](#) for additional field trip information

Dawn Demeo (English - CHS) gave an overview of a school trip to Puerto Rico in the spring of 2022. The trip will be run through EF tours, and Ms. Demeo has previously facilitated eight trips at Cheshire High School. The trip will be open to those students who are enrolled in the African American and Black, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies course as well as other interested students. The seven day trip will include tours and stops in San Juan, Las Piedras,

Loiza, and Ponce and will include museum tours, walking tours, cooking classes, and dance classes.

Ms. Ham made a motion to approve the trip and move the trip forward to the full Board of Education for consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perugini. Mr. Perugini and Ms. Ham voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

4. Old Business

- a. None

5. Informational Items

- a. Curriculum Writing Institute

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, gave an overview of the first ever Cheshire Curriculum Writing Institute which will take place on June 24, 25, 28, 29, and 30. Linda Van Wagenen, who led the NEASC accreditation visit to Cheshire High School, will facilitate the institute. Nearly 80 teachers will be involved for the five day institute and represent curriculum updates in the vast majority of departments at every level and includes representatives from our pupil personnel department. The goals include developing authentic performance tasks that are engaging, rigorous, tied to standards and demonstrate students' complex thinking; creating a K-12 digital curriculum library that is accessible to those who teach the course; and developing a curriculum that embodies Acceleration.

- b. Professional Development

- Acceleration, Coaching, NGSS

Marlene Silano provided an update on upcoming professional development for the end of this school year and next school year. First, Acceleration will continue to be an area of focus beyond the 2020-21 school year. Fifty-one teachers attended The Connecticut Center for School Change (CCSC) Acceleration workshop series in March. CCSC will be providing professional development related to Acceleration to our administrators next week as well as monthly sessions throughout the year. The administrators as well as the participants in the multiple Acceleration offerings will continue to lead all staff in the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

One strategy and approach that Cheshire will rely on to help mitigate learning loss and elevate instructional practice is coaching. The district is establishing more formalized coaching roles for teacher leaders. Coaches and representative assistant principals will attend a three day coaching workshop provided by CCSC in September and October of 2021 as well as engage in monthly K-12 coaching meetings.

During the 2021-22 school year, Cheshire will restart its partnership with the Connecticut Science Center. Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator, shared that grades 1 and 2 teachers will receive direct professional development from the Science Center on the PD day in November, RAMS will engage in five “train the trainer” sessions throughout the year, Dodd science teachers will have a one day NGSS training in September, and Dodd science teachers will also have six one hour Professional Learning Community sessions throughout the year during their division meetings. Marlene Silano added that the high school science

teachers will be involved in two cycles of lesson study with both biology and earth science teachers at CHS.

c. Pandemic End of Year Data Snapshot

Kevin Hanlon presented an overview of the end-of-the-year reading and math data for grades 1 through 6. The overall trends in performance for the end-of-year data mirrored the previous trends in students meeting reading and math benchmarks. Similar to the mid-year data, reading performance was primarily near or at recent historic levels and math performance was primarily at or slightly above recent historic levels. Five of the six grade levels reviewed actually demonstrated the highest level of end-of-year performance in math over the last four school years. Cohort data in both reading and math primarily showed that the percentage of students meeting grade level benchmarks grew as the students moved up in grade levels. Continued focus for next year will include Acceleration practices, curriculum pacing, collaborative planning, conferencing, phonics instruction, tutoring, and curriculum development and implementation.

d. Update on African American and black, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies course

- Public Act No. 19-12 <https://pa1912.serc.co/>

Marlene Silano reviewed information about development of the course across the state. The course stemmed from public act 19-12 and will be an elective course for Cheshire High School beginning in the 2021-22 school year. Eighty-four students requested to take the course for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Mary Gadd, CHS Principal, and Dr. Maureen Reed, CHS Assistant Principal, shared that the course was presented in the program of studies presentation to the BOE Curriculum Subcommittee, was included in the program of studies and typical course request process, and was publicized through teachers and counselors. Marlene Silano provided information on both administrative and teacher training for the African American and Black, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies course for the 2021-22 school year. The launch for administrators will occur in July. The training for the two teachers involved will include a week in the summer as well as ongoing sessions in October, December, and March provided by the state/SERC.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Perugini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Mr. Perugini and Ms. Ham voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator