

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, February 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

### Minutes

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 (CHS); Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Dan Tartarelli, Assistant Principal - CHS; Cathy Sullivan, PE/Health Department Chair; Michelle Catucci, CHS Director of Guidance; Leslie Paier, Business Department Chair; Sean McKeown, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department Chair; Kristin Castellano, Dodd Unified Arts Division Leader; Ian Wildermann, CHS English Department Chair; Amy Balisciano, CHS English Teacher/Reading Specialist

Community Members Present:

None

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment via cpscovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us email nor any in-person public comment.

**2. [Review Minutes of January 10, 2022 Meeting](#)**

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022. The motion passed.*

**3. New Business**

- a.** Review CABE sample policies regarding reconsideration of library books/classroom resources Marlene Silano shared several sample policies regarding reconsideration of library books and/or classroom resources. The samples were compiled from Connecticut Association of Boards of Education resources. The samples included appropriate channels for parents to make a request for the reconsideration of instructional materials, related forms, and possible evaluation committees to review any requests. Faith Ham recommended putting an agenda item on the March or April BOE Curriculum Committee meeting for possible motion to recommend updates to the BOE Policy Committee.

#### 4. **Informational Items**

##### a. Elementary Physical Education

- New/returning elementary bicycle safety unit
- Proposed elementary golf unit

Cathy Sullivan gave an overview of two elementary Physical Education programs. The first is the return and expansion of a bicycle safety program. Doug Levens (Cheshire YMCA) and Jim Jinks (Bike Cheshire) obtained grant funding for a classroom supply of bikes and a trailer to transport them. Those bikes would be used as part of a three to four lesson fourth grade unit on riding bikes and bike safety. Certified instructors from the League of American Bicyclists and PE teachers will teach the classes. All physical education teachers will receive appropriate training prior to the implementation of the unit this spring.

The second program is part of an initial Cheshire Education Foundation grant request for golf instruction using the First Tee's materials. The First Tee School Program aims to provide safe and fun activities where elementary students will learn the basic skills of the lifelong sport of golf along with character development and social and emotional learning through the First Tee's Nine Core Values. PE teachers will be trained and the tools come with all of the necessary equipment. The program is targeted for K-6. The initial program may begin in a few pilot grade levels across all of the schools.

##### b. CHS Courses to Career

The presentation included representatives from middle and high school sharing the various exploratory and Courses to Career opportunities provided to students in Cheshire Public Schools.

Kristin Castellano shared the Unified Arts offerings beyond those offered at the elementary level that allow students to explore and gain a foundation in some pre-career areas. Some of those classes include: Engineering and Production, Robotics, Digital Design, Multimedia, and Consumer Economics.

Michelle Catucci provided information regarding the use of Naviance in grades 8-10 as a means for career exploration, the [CHS Courses to Career](#) online resource, as well as other ways the counseling department supports students to research careers and complete post-secondary applications.

Sean McKeon and Leslie Paier provided an overview of key opportunities for high school students connected to both the CTE and Business departments at CHS. The opportunities include Business and CTE course offerings (including dual enrollment courses), Cadet Teaching, a Career Development course, Manufacturing Academy, Internship course, job shadows, and the Mastery Based Performance Assessment.

##### c. What are students reading at the high school level? What skills are they learning?

Ian Wildermann and Amy Balisciano shared what types of reading students are doing at the high school level. The bulk of the reading students are engaged with fall in three main

categories: Whole class/canonical texts, independent reading, and non-fiction. The presentation emphasized how teachers help students to move from robust support to facilitate learning of skills, to less support to facilitate self-directed learning and complex thinking. Additionally, the presentation highlighted how skills are developed within a single text, over the course of a unit, and over the course of the year. Written student reflections on each area of the presentation showcased the impact of what students are reading is on their thinking and learning.

d. Changes to the 2024 SAT

Marlene Silano provided a brief update regarding the changes to the SAT for the year 2024.. Some of the key updates include that the total test time will be shortened to two hours. The digital test will feature shorter reading passages with one question tied to each. Calculators will be allowed on the entire math section. It is anticipated that students and educators will get scores back in days, instead of weeks.

**5. Adjourn**

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator