

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, October 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

### Humiston Board Room

#### 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; Mike Woods, Principal - Dodd Middle School; Kristen Shanley, Dodd Language Arts Division Leader; Kristin Castellano, Dodd Reading Support Teacher

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 September 12, 2022 Meeting](#)**

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022. The motion passed.*

**3. New Business**

**a. Update - 7th Grade Contemporary Fiction Book Club**

Marlene Silano, Kristen Shanley, Kristin Castellano, and Mike Woods provided an update on the 7th grade Contemporary Fiction Book Club. The book club was a subject of discussion at the Board of Education open forum held on October 6th, 2022. The update included an overview of the process by which texts are selected and the considerations include connection to the standards, student interests/needs, developmental considerations, text complexity, book reviews/awards (Booksource), and a conscious effort to represent student groups. The update also included the standards that are associated with the unit, the types of questions asked to facilitate book club discussions, Common Sense Media as a resource for parents, the number of students who signed up for each book, and the addition of 2 books based on feedback from some families.

#### 4. Informational Items

a. Cheshire High School Master Schedule Committee

Dr. Gadd shared that they have convened a schedule committee including nine teachers, seven students, two parents, and three administrators. The goals of the committee are to review the context for the current schedule (e.g. thirty minute lunches, teacher collaboration time, drop-in support), identify what the committee is trying to accomplish through the schedule, consider school community feedback and research, and make a recommendation by February.

b. Out of State Overnight Field Trips

- [Cheshire High School - Washington, DC - May 22-24, 2022](#)

Dr. Gadd shared information regarding a planned spring trip to Washington D.C. for students in this year's AP US Government class. Students will visit a variety of national landmarks and government institutions including: the US Capitol, the Supreme Court, the National Archives, The State Department, the FBI, the White House, the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of African American History, the Vietnam War Memorial, the WWII Memorial, The Korean War Memorial, The Jefferson Memorial, The Washington Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, The Roosevelt Memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial, and the Eisenhower Memorial. The students in this year's AP Government classes were not able to visit Washington during their 8th grade year due to COVID-19 closures so this trip will give them insight into this important location in our government.

#### 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 7:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator