

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, December 12, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

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; Dr. Mary Gadd, Principal - Cheshire High School (CHS); Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS

Community Members Present: None

1. Public Comment

Mr. Jack Bestor sent an email regarding the percent of fiction versus nonfiction reading at Cheshire High School.

2. [Review Minutes of November 14, 2022 Meeting](#)

Mr. Perugini made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2022 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Harrigan seconded the motion. Ms. Ham, Ms. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini voted to approve the minutes of November 14, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

a. Enrollment in College Level Courses

Marlene Silano provided some information regarding the state stance that Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment Courses, and Early College Experience (ECE) courses are considered an appropriate indicator of student growth by the state. All of these course types are now included in the Next Generation Accountability Index. Dr. Maureen Reed provided some specifics regarding the breakdown of enrollment in each of the course types in different high school departments. The total number of students enrolled in each of these courses is 979. It was noted that Cheshire High School is continuing to add these courses in the program of studies offerings.

b. Out-of-Country Field Trip Requests

● [Costa Rica, Cheshire High School, April 2024](#)

Irene Margary, Cheshire High School School Science teacher, proposed a trip to Costa Rica in April of 2024. The objective of the proposed trip is to explore the biodiversity of Costa Rica and an immersion experience in a new culture - the people, language, food, and way of life. The trip is designed for a dozen students from CHS in grades 9-12. The cost of this trip is approximately \$3500.

● [Puerto Rico, Cheshire High School, April 2024](#)

Dawn DeMeo, Cheshire High School English teacher, proposed a trip to Puerto Rico in April of 2024. The objective of the trip is to travel and learn about Afro-Caribbean Culture in Puerto Rico. The trip is designed for twenty students from the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies class. The cost of the trip is approximately \$3200.

● [Iceland, Cheshire High School, April 2024](#)

Sarah Mik and Rebecca Dadio proposed a trip to Iceland in April of 2024. The objective of the trip is to explore what Iceland has to offer focusing on health and wellness. Through physical activity (hikes, snorkeling, fishing, etc.) and service projects (Coastal Cleanup, Forest Institute) students will gain a better understanding of the vital connection between our physical and mental health. The trip is designed for twenty students from CHS in grades 9-12. The cost of the trip is approximately \$4100.

No motion was made on the trips so that the dates of the trips could be confirmed as compared to the proposed school calendar for the 2023-24 school year. The approval of the trips will be tabled until the Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting scheduled for January 9, 2023

4. Informational Items

a. Update on New Language for Course Levels at CHS

Dr. Mary Gadd gave an overview of updates to course designations in the program of studies for next year. The updates include changing the level designations from College Prep and Competitive College Prep to designating Honors courses instead of the Competitive College Prep.

b. Elementary Classroom Libraries

Marlene Silano gave an update on efforts to bolster elementary classroom libraries. In a recent teacher meeting with elementary teacher representatives, a meta-analysis

on the importance of using print materials (versus digital resources) to help young readers grow was reviewed. Having high quality print texts available to students is essential for reading growth. The district is committed to making sure classroom libraries are full of the right kinds of print books at each grade level to support reading growth.

c. Grade 6-8 Math Textbook Review

Kevin Hanlon gave an overview of an ad hoc committee to review possible textbook resources for grades 6 through 8. The committee is comprised of math coaches, the middle school math division leader, teacher representatives, and two administrators. The committee has identified strengths and needs of the current resource, priorities for any updated resource, reviewed two specific resources to date, and has plans to work to make recommendations on any updates to the resource in March.

5. Adjourn

Ms. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perugini seconded the motion. Ms. Ham, Ms. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator