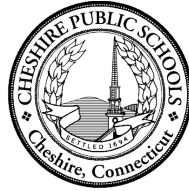


# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, March 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

### Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Faith Ham (Chair) and Dr. 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; Mr. Michael Woods - Dodd Middle School Principal; Ms. Jessica Tresselt - Dodd Middle School - Counselor; Kristin Hasse - World Language Teacher; Irene Margary - CHS Science Teacher; Rebecca Daddio - CHS CTE Teacher  
Community Members Present: None

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment in person nor via email.

**2. Review Minutes of February 13, 2023 Meeting**

*Ms. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2023 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. New Business**

a. Signs of Suicide (SOS) Program at Dodd Middle School

Mr. Michael Woods and Ms. Jessica Tresselt gave an overview of the Signs of Suicide program to be facilitated at Dodd Middle School. The overview included information on the need for training, managing reactions (you don't need to have all of the answers or be an expert to act), what to do if a child sees signs of suicide, building protective factors, building coping skills, and tips for getting adolescence to talk. It was emphasized that adults and peers play an important role in keeping others safe, and they can make a difference. Dodd mental health staff will present the SOS lessons to Core Classes (Social Studies) of 23-26 students. All materials and videos will be made available to parents and opt out resources made available upon request.

b. Educator Evaluation Plan

Ms. Silano provided an update of the work of this year's Educator Evaluation Committee. This committee is meeting in anticipation of the state revising guidelines for Educator Evaluation. The committee met last week to hear an overview of a possible plan provided by Kim Marshall, author of Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation: How to Work Smart, Build Collaboration, and Close the Achievement Gap and author of a weekly education research digest memo (The Marshall Memo). More frequent informal observations with face-to-face feedback each time is favored in the plan over less frequent more formal

observations. The committee will continue to meet, gather feedback, and work to make recommendations.

#### 4. **Old Business**

##### a. Out-of-Country Field Trip Requests

- [Germany, Cheshire High School, August 6-19, 2023](#)
- [Costa Rica, Cheshire High School, April 5-13, 2024](#)
- [Puerto Rico, Cheshire High School, April 6-12, 2024](#)
- [Iceland, Cheshire High School, April 6-13, 2024](#)

Kristin Haase shared that the student exchange with Germany has been going on since 1983 with only two interruptions over that time. The exchange alternates between Cheshire students visiting Germany and Cheshire hosting visiting German students. The trip is planned for 10 students.

The remaining trips were reviewed at previous meetings. Dates of the trips were either confirmed or updated to reflect the school calendar for the 2023-24 school year.

*Anne Harrigan made a motion to send the following field trips to the full Board of Education for approval. Faith Ham seconded the motion. Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan voted to move the trips to the full Board of Education for approval.*

*Germany, Cheshire High School, August 6-19, 2023*

*Costa Rica, Cheshire High School, April 5-13, 2024*

*Puerto Rico, Cheshire High School, April 6-12, 2024*

*Iceland, Cheshire High School, April 6-13, 2024*

#### 5. **Informational Items**

##### a. Cheshire High School Master Schedule Update

Dr. Mary Gadd reviewed the recommendations of the CHS schedule committee. The committee recommended keeping the current schedule for the 2023-24 school year, and pilot small shifts in the frequency/times of classes for a short duration next year. Based on the results and feedback from the pilot, the committee will revisit recommendations for the schedule design.

##### b. [Right to Read Act Waiver](#)

Marlene Silano and Kevin Hanlon shared the submitted documentation requesting a waiver of the Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Model (waiver). The waiver included the required 3 parts: Detailed answers to nine specific questions posed by the state, the completed K-3 reading data template, and a strategy document indicating the approach to address gaps in academic performance of subgroups. Cheshire was one of ninety-eight districts to submit such a waiver to the state, and feedback on the waiver request is currently expected by June. The waiver submission was shared with elementary building level representatives as both a program review and to build awareness of some needed updates to the early reading assessments that will be implemented for the 2023-24 school year.

**6. 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 7:51 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator