

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, December 11, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

### Minutes

Committee Members Present: Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (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

Community Members Present: None

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment in-person or via email.

**2. [Review Minutes of November 13, 2023 Meeting](#)**

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

**3. Informational Items**

**a. Assistant Superintendent Updates**

Marlene Silano provided information on current and upcoming work in the district. The first set of items all had to do with the change in Kindergarten start age for the 2024-25 school year. The district opened up the first class of 18 spots for the one-year Kindergarten transition program and received 15 deposits within 2 days. The three additional spots are being held for students with disabilities. Eleven families have expressed interest in having the students assessed for early entry into Kindergarten. A committee including Jodie Roden, Christina Sherwood, Kim Dessert, and Marlene Silano has been meeting to review Kindergarten readiness assessments to be used for screening those interested in early entry into Kindergarten.

Both the Cheshire Strategic Planning Committee and Educator Evaluation Committee will meet this week. Both committees will engage in an experience of two models of instruction, one a traditional approach and another that includes the practices of Building Thinking Classrooms and making thinking visible. The latter is representative of the kind of

instruction that matches the district goals of Complex Thinking and Social Emotional Learning and the district definition of High Quality Instruction. The experience is designed to inform the respective work of each of these important committees.

The Pupil Attitudes Toward Self and School (PASS) survey was administered to all students in the fall. The district Cabinet has received training on how to interpret the results of the assessment. The Administrative Council and school counselors will receive the training in the coming weeks.

The final note was that Building Level Representatives Meetings will take place this coming Friday and next Monday. These meetings are designed to provide two-way communication between teachers in the buildings and the curriculum office.

**b. Multilingual Learners Update**

Marlene Silano gave an overview of actions taken over the past several years to support the engagement and performance of multilingual learners in the district. The efforts include ensuring that a TESOL-certified teacher is supporting every grade-level band, increased professional development/coaching for faculty and staff, supporting multilingual learners through targeted summer enrichment programming, and strategies to foster the engagement of families of multilingual learners with the district including translation services. Additionally, Kevin Hanlon provided an overview of the LAS links assessments (state English language proficiency assessment), historical results, and areas of focus for the current year.

**c. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trips**

Marlene Silano provided details of springtime trips to Nature's Classroom for grade 6 students at Doolittle, Chapman, and Norton Schools. All trips are four days and are happening in May. Doolittle and Norton Schools will be traveling to the Charlton, MA site and Chapman will be traveling to Ivoryton, CT site.

- [Doolittle School - Nature's Classroom, Charlton, MA - May 14-17, 2024](#)
- [Chapman School - Nature's Classroom, Ivoryton, CT - May 28-31, 2024](#)
- [Norton School - Nature's Classroom, Charlton, MA - May 28-31, 2024](#)

**4. Adjourn**

*Dr. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator