

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, January 8, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Chair), Dr. Anne Harrigan, and Mr. Tony Perugini
<u>Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:</u>	Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Robin-Anne Carey, Pupil Personnel Director
<u>Community Members Present:</u>	None

1. Public Comment

No public comment in person or via email.

2. [Review Minutes of December 11, 2023 Meeting](#)

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Mr. Perugini seconded the motion. Dr. Harrigan and Ms. Cullinan voted to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes. Mr Perugini abstained. The motion passed.

3. New Business

a. Out of Country Field Trip Request

• [Cheshire High School - Paris, France - April 11-20, 2025](#)

Marlene Silano gave an overview of the requested trip to France for April of 2025. The trip is a cross-curricular field trip for the Modern World History and Pop Culture Through History courses in the Social Studies Department. The trip is planned for 14-24 students and will include historical and pop-culture stops in Paris, Versailles, and Normandy. The cost of the trip will be \$3500 per student and is being run through an educational touring company, Destinations Unlimited.

No motion on the trip was made. The motion was tabled so that the Calendar Committee could meet and the dates could be confirmed. Any additional questions regarding the trip will be addressed when the trip is brought up again at a future Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting (February or after the Calendar Committee has a chance to meet).

4. **Informational Items**

a. Assistant Superintendent Update

Marlene Silano provided information on current and upcoming work in the district. A committee has been convened to look at a replacement for our reading universal screen, Reading Inventory, which is being phased out at the end of the year. Several demonstrations are scheduled in the coming weeks from Renaissance Learning (Star Reading) and NWEA MAP.

As part of the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) review, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) parent survey went out today as part of the review process. The CTE CCC committee will consider the results as part of setting goals for the next five years.

Planning for the March 14th district professional development day has begun. One area of focus will be the vertical articulation of standards across grades 5-12 in the English, Math, Social Studies, and Science departments.

The district will host the second annual Day of Chorus on January 26th. The Day of Chorus combines elementary, middle, and high school choral groups in learning and shared performances. Grade 6 teachers will be engaged in professional development while the grade 6 students are participating in the day.

The district is exploring STEM education, especially as it relates to the elementary curriculum. As part of that exploration, central office administrators met with a representative from True Robotics. True Robotics has a grade 4 and 5 standards-aligned, hands-on curriculum that is one possible avenue to embed STEM education for all students at the elementary level. Issues with scheduling and staffing would be important considerations before any implementation.

b. K-12 Special Education - 2023-2024 CCC Executive Summary

Robin-Anne Carey gave a summary of the 2023 Special Education Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) report. The summary included reflections on work over the last CCC cycle which included focusing on Social Emotional Learning and Complex Thinking, implementation of CT-SEDS Data platform, aligning programming to transition regulations, providing appropriate assistive technology access, and supporting students to develop executive function skills to support independence. In this next CCC cycle, there is an emphasis on the importance of providing special education services with a greater connection to the regular education teachers and environment as expressed by the quote, “You can’t teach a child to swim by taking them out of the pool” (Anne Beninghof). Some key goals will be to increase general education participation at PPTs in identifying barriers and developing the IEP; developing prescriptive, individualized service hours in the Least Restrictive Setting; providing non-personnel reliant accommodations; and continuing to support executive functioning skills to support independence.

5. **Adjourn**

Ms. Cullinan adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator