

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, February 12, 2024 – 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 - CHS; Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Ms. Leslie Paier, CHS Business Department Chair

Community Members Present: None

1. **Public Comment**

No public comment in person or via email.

2. **Review Minutes of January 8, 2024 Meeting**

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2024, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the January 8, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

3. **New Business**

a. New Textbook Recommendation

- [AP Macroeconomics. Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course, Fourth Edition](#)

Leslie Paier shared details of the recommendation for Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course, Fourth Edition. The recommendation seeks to replace the previous outdated text from 2015 for the AP Macroeconomics Course at CHS. The alignment to the AP expectations and necessary updates to current Federal Reserve policy. The cost of \$10,709 includes 60 hardcover textbooks.

Dr. Harrigan moved that Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course, Fourth Edition be forwarded to the full board for approval after the appropriate two-week period where it is available to the public for review. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Dr. Harrigan and Ms. Cullinan voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

b. Out-of-Country Field Trip Request

- [Cheshire High School - Jiangsu, China - April 7-14, 2024](#)

Marlene Silano and Maureen Reed gave an overview of the planned upcoming trip for CHS students to Jiangsu, China through the ACES-Jiangsu Intercultural Exchange Experience. From April 7, 2024, through April 14, 2024 students will visit schools, engage in sightseeing, connect with a local "buddy" during the trip, and participate in cultural experiences from dining to calligraphy. The cost of the trip is \$2,750 per student.

Ms. Cullinan made a motion to send the out-of-country field trip to Jiangsu, China from April 7-14, 2024 to the full Board of Education for approval. Dr. Harrigan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to send the trip to the full Board of Education for approval and the motion passed.

4. Old Business

5. Informational Items

a. Assistant Superintendent Update

Marlene Silano provided an update on three topics: The district status regarding the Right to Read Act, the District Educator Evaluation Committee, and the planning committee on Increasing Educator Diversity.

Concerning the Right to Read Act, Cheshire met with representatives from the State Department of Education on Monday, February 5th. In addition to Dr. Jeff Solan (Superintendent), Marlene Silano, Kevin Hanlon, and Pat Castle (K-6 Reading Coach), members of the Board of Education and elected officials attended. Ahead of the meeting, the district hand-delivered additional materials for the state to review including a full scope and sequence, curriculum guides, and full units of study. In the meeting, the state provided feedback on areas of concern with the district waiver. Many, if not all of those areas, likely represent misunderstandings about the actual reading instruction practices in Cheshire. Some clarification of those areas was shared within the meeting. The state was clear that the waiver process had concluded. Some members of the meeting did indicate possible future legislative considerations that may provide opportunities for some reconsideration of waiver applications.

District Educator Evaluation Review. Beginning in January of 2023 a renewed Educator Evaluation Committee consisting of twenty-five teachers and administrators convened. Through a series of meetings and professional development opportunities (Kim Marshall, Partners for Educational Leadership, Connecticut Association of Schools), the committee worked to consider important aspects of an updated Educator Evaluation plan. Currently, the committee is awaiting the release of a state model evaluation plan. The committee will work between now and the beginning of next school year to craft a draft plan to submit to the state for the 2024-25 school year.

The state is requiring each district to convene an Increasing Educator Diversity Planning Committee. Dr. Solan is working to organize a small representative committee to continue

the district's efforts to diversify its workforce and meet the requirements to report back to the state on such efforts.

b. Pupil Attitude Towards Self and School Survey (PASS) Update

Marlene Silano gave an overview of the first administration of the Pupil Attitude Towards Self and School (PASS) survey. The PASS is a multi-factorial measure of students' attitudes toward school, learning and success. The data it yields can be used as a means of establishing baselines and to support effective planning and implementation of interventions at individual, group and whole school levels. The initial results indicate that at the district level, students show a high level of satisfaction with their school experience in Cheshire. Where individual students show a low level of satisfaction with their school experience, teachers, counselors, and administrators provide appropriate intervention and support. The PASS can help identify specific factors of a student's educational experience to address.

c. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trip

- [CHS - Festival of Music, Boston MA - April 19-21, 2024](#)

Students in CHS Band and Orchestra have the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Music in Boston from April 19-21. Student performances will be adjudicated for a score and will be followed by a professional clinic.

6. 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 at 8:01 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator