

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, October 21, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Cháir), Dr. Anne Harrigan,
Mr. Tony Perugini

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin
Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd,
CHS Principal; Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal -
CHS

Community Members Present:

Seong Uk Yang (South Korean - Teacher Exchange)

1. Public Comment

No public comment in-person or via email.

2. Review Minutes of September 9, 2024 Meeting

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Mr. Perugini seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan, Dr. Harrigan, and Mr. Perugini voted to approve the September 9, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

3. New Business

a. New Textbook Recommendation

- [Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology 13th Edition](#), Marieb and Keller

Dr. Maureen Reed provided information on the recommendation for Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology 13th Edition, Marieb and Keller to be used for the Honors Anatomy and Physiology Course. The textbook committee (Anna Harasta, Pam Missal, Tanya Kores) indicated this text best aligns with the skills associated with NGSS even though it is intended for a course that is beyond the scope of the NGSS content standards. The text provides opportunities for students to engage in modeling (diagrams), engaging in arguments from evidence (case studies), applying their knowledge to analyze data, and designing/conducting investigations through hands-on lab activities. Additionally, there are a variety of interactive

experiences and supports as part of the online text. The proposal includes access for 75 students at a total cost of \$10,490.25.

The committee tabled any motion pending the ability to review the actual text at the next meeting as well as getting information on the publication date of the previous text and the number of students who have taken the course over the last several years.

4. Informational Items

a. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Marlene Silano provided an update on several items, including:

Manufacturing technology: This district continues to explore and develop programs to support student experiences in manufacturing, technology, and business. Marlene Silano and Tom Lewoc, current Career Technical Education (CTE) department chair, attended a summit hosted by IRWECA (Institute for Real World Education and Curriculum Advancement). IRWECA is a partnership between the Office of Research and Innovation at SCSU and the Connecticut State Department of Education. The goals of IRWECA are to 1) increase educator awareness of academic and career opportunities in Connecticut AND 2) support educators' development and implementation of new teaching and learning aligned with the needs of those companies. The organization is supporting Cheshire by helping to find people within the manufacturing industry to train CHS teachers on our grant funded manufacturing equipment. Tom Lewoc, has plans to be trained on CTE equipment which was acquired by the district just before Covid. In addition, Marlene Silano continues to collaborate with state and local manufacturing partners to explore connections to support our district programs, and Leslie Paier, Business Department Chair, also continues to make connections with local businesses (eg. Jackson Labs) to keep the curriculum and experiences for students as real world as possible.

Strategic Planning Committee: - In addition to engaging in conversations related to the topics addressed in the book *The Anxious Generation*, the committee will engage in exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. Ms. Silano and two teachers from Dodd Middle School attended the recent "Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools" conference hosted by EdAdvance. A representative from EdAdvance will support Cheshire's development in this area through the Strategic Planning Committee and Administrative Council this year.

Educator Professional Growth Plan: The district received final approval from the state on its Educator Professional Growth Plan on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Principals have been working with teachers on drafting goals for the year and the district is in the final stages of publishing a district website with resources to support teachers as they focus on goals aimed at improving their instruction.

CAPSS - Educational Leadership cohort for Assistant Superintendents: Marlene Silano was invited to co-facilitate this state-wide cohort. She was also recently asked to present Cheshire's Curriculum Writing Institute (CWI) as a framework for curriculum development.

Math Initiatives: Administrators met last week for the first K-12 Curriculum meeting of the school year. Math was a primary topic. There continues to be concerted efforts to elevate the math performance of the district's secondary students. Recent work includes Robin Anne Carey's (Director of Pupil Personnel Services) focus on supporting special education teachers' practices on supporting students who have math goals in their IEP; Kevin Hanlon and Kelly Grillo (Dodd Principal) collaboration with teachers on essential instructional practices; and Dr. Reed, Dr. Gadd, and Lisa Bernabe (Math Department Chair) meeting regularly on plans to ensure students continue to grow and meet expectations in Math.

b. 2025-2026 Program of Study Changes - Cheshire High School

Dr. Maureen Reed provided an overview of the recommended new courses, course changes, and level changes to the 2025-26 Cheshire High School (CHS) Program of Studies.

The updates include the addition of the Percussion Ensemble. This course recommendation separates a combined woodwind and percussion ensemble.

Course title changes include changing Graphic Design and DE Digital Media Foundations - NVCC to Digital Design I and II respectively. Symphonic Band will change to Symphonic Winds to reflect the noted separation of woodwinds and percussion.

Additional course modifications include updating the academic terms and grade levels for Honors Science Phenomena: Research in Action. This change is from full year (once every 4 days) to semester (once every other day). The instructional periods of projects better fit a Spring or Fall semester time frame and opening the course up to students in grades 9-12 allows more opportunity for students.

Courses with level changes include changing Wind Ensemble, Select Mixed Choir, and Select Treble Choir from CP to honors as the courses currently meet the expectations of an honors level course at CHS.

Honors Biology will remove Algebra I as a prerequisite course.

Honors Modern Media Literacy will be deleted from the program of studies. In this course, students focused on creating the school newspaper, The Rampage, throughout the year. Based on student feedback this course will revert back to an afterschool club.

c. Multilingual Learners Update

Kevin Hanlon provided an update on the multilingual learner (ML) enrollment for the 2024-25 school year. The total number of MLs in the district is 159, up from 129 the previous year. Spanish is the top home language, Highland School has the largest number of MLs (65), and grade 3 has the largest number of MLs (29) by grade level. The increase was anticipated and the district continues to evaluate the support model to be sure the district successfully meets the needs of the students.

d. Algebra I Resource

Marlene Silano and Kevin Hanlon provided information on the district's pilot of iReady Math as an Algebra I curricular resource. iReady Algebra I is in the pilot phase of development and Cheshire is part of the pilot program. Professional development specialists oriented teachers to the program in August and will be back in the district on November 1st for further

support. Pending the review of the pilot program and iReady's finalizing the official release of the Algebra I course, the math department may bring a textbook recommendation to the curriculum committee in the late spring.

e. [PASS Parent Letter](#)

Marlene Silano shared the letter from Dr. Solan to parents regarding this year's fall administration of the PASS survey. The window for administration is October 1st through October 30th.

a. [Florida Keys - Cheshire High School - February 12-18, 2025](#) *(shared at September meeting)*

- Postponed due to hurricane damage; will try to reschedule for Spring 2026

Dr. Maureen Reed updated the committee on the plans to postpone the planned trip to Florida as a result of recent hurricane damage.

5. Adjourn

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peruguni seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator