

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, November 11, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Chair) and Dr. Anne Harrigan

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:

Dr. Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, CHS Principal; Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Julie Barker, Science Department Chair - CHS

Public:

Hannah Sam, Superintendent Intern

1. Public Comment

No public comment in-person or via email.

2. [Review Minutes of October 21, 2024 Meeting](#)

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2024, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the October 21, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

3. Old Business

a. New Textbook Recommendation

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

Julie Barker provided additional information about the [Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology](#) 13th Edition, Marieb and Keller that was initially reviewed at the previous Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting (10/21/24).

For the past few years, CHS has run two sections of the course. However, there have been enough student requests to run three sections. It is anticipated that three sections will be offered in the upcoming year and is reflected in the quantity of books and licenses being requested.

Additionally, committee members took time to preview the physical textbook.

Dr. Harrigan moved that the Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology 13th Edition, Marieb and Keller (2022) 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. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

4. Informational Items

a. PASS - Fall Results

Dr. Jeffrey Solan and Marlene Silano provided an overview of the Fall administration of the PASS results. This is the second Fall the district has administered the survey. The overview included the percentage of students who reported high satisfaction as well as how students compared to respondents nationally. The data shows overall health relative to attitude to self and school.

Of the survey factors, *Self Regard as a Learner* and *Attitudes to Attendance* were noted as key focus areas. Additionally, *General Work Ethic* is an area of focus for secondary students.

The data from this Fall is comparable to last Fall's administration. During recent building professional days, schools reviewed data at the school level, the team level, the class level, and/or the individual student level. Interventions and supports were reviewed at those same levels by school administrators, teachers, and counseling staff.

b. Science Pathways

Julie Barker shared an updated Science course pathway for students at Cheshire High School. Currently, the accelerated pathway at CHS begins with grade 9 students taking Honors Biology. Students in this pathway do not take an Earth Science course but that opens up multiple options for high-level science courses over their high school career.

A proposal has been made to ensure that all Grade 9 students take an Earth Science course with the option for students who wish to accelerate in Science to "double up" on courses in any year, providing access to high-level science options throughout their high school career. For example, a Grade 9 student could take both Earth Science and Biology concurrently. This proposed pathway aims to offer greater flexibility for students to advance in science at any grade level. The program of studies has been updated to reflect these changes, and plans are underway to inform relevant teachers, parents, and students about the new pathway. The proposal is still under consideration.

c. Elementary Report Card - Grade 5

Kevin Hanlon provided information about changes to the grade 5 report card for the 2024-25 school year.

Cheshire has been using mastery-based report cards aligned to CT CORE standards for a significant amount of time. Some grade levels also reported an overall letter grade. Beginning in 2017-18 the overall letter grades were removed from grade four report cards. The original design of the plan was to have that practice filter up to other grades over time.

Based on feedback from the building-level reps committee and consultation with principals, it is an appropriate time to make the update to grade 5 report cards this year.

Teacher (curriculum portal) and parent (district website) handbooks were updated and posted at the beginning of the school year and teachers were prompted/reminded ahead of parent-teacher conferences in October. The building-level reps committee and principals will review any questions or feedback on the updates as the year progresses.

5. 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 7:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Hanlon

Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator