

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, December 9, 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:

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Tina Ocone, French Teacher - CHS; Kristin Haase, German Teacher

Public:

None

1. Public Comment

No public comment in person or via email.

2. Review Minutes of November 11, 2024 Meeting

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2024, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the November 11, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

3. New Business

a. Out-of-Country Field Trip Request

● CHS - Rennes and Paris, France - June 19 - July 4, 2025

Tina Ocone reviewed a field trip request for June 19 - July 4, 2025 to France. The trip is for CHS students who hosted French exchange students for 12 nights in October of 2024 to have the opportunity to stay with their partners for the same amount of time at their homes in the Rennes area of France in return. The trip will conclude with 3 days and nights of tourist visits in Paris. The cost of the trip is \$4000.

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to send the out-of-country field trip to Rennes and Paris, France from June 19-June 24, 2025 to the full Board of Education for approval. Ms. Cullinan 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.

- CHS - Cologne, Germany - June 19 - July 2, 2025

Kristin Haase shared details of a field trip request for June 19 - July 2, 2025 to Germany. The trip is part of the ongoing exchange program with students and families in Cologne, Germany since 1983. Students will live with host families, attend school, and embark on two day trips to Burg Eltz and Trier. The cost of the trip is \$2500.

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to send the out-of-country field trip to Cologne, Germany from June 19-July 2, 2025 to the full Board of Education for approval. Ms. Cullinan 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. **Informational Items**

a. Assistant Superintendent Update

Marlene Silano provided an update on several items:

1. Matt Mervis, Director of Skills21 and AI Strategy at EdAdvance, presented to the district Administrative Council and the Strategic Planning Committee around the uses of Artificial Intelligence in schools. Matt also co-hosts the ChatEDU podcast which has served as a helpful resource as the district considers the implications of AI for the district.
2. Science Teachers/Coaches - The first session of robotics in grades 4 and 5 is nearly complete. Designed as a pre-engineering experience, the STEM teachers/coaches reported positive student outcomes in emotional regulation, collaboration, compromise, perseverance, communication, problem-solving, and trial and error as a stepping stone. The STEM teachers/coaches are developing an agriscience curriculum for the second half of the year.
3. Vincent Masciana (Chief Operating Officer) and Marlene Silano recently toured the Southington Vocational Agriculture (Vo-Ag) program. While students from Cheshire currently have the option to apply to the Lyman Hall Ag-Science program, the district is exploring whether the Southington program may provide another opportunity for students. The Southington Ag-Science program has connections to some of the local farms in Cheshire. A future visit to Lyman Hall is anticipated.
4. At the January Curriculum Committee meeting, Dr. Mary Gadd (CHS Principal), will share a scheduling update for CHS. Mike Devine, Department Chair for Health and PE, will share details of a review of health and wellness instruction in DRG B districts as a part of the planning process for continued development of Cheshire's curriculum.

b. YMCA Survey to Support Families of Children with Special Needs

At a recent District Health and Wellness Committee meeting, which included representatives from the district and town organizations, Doug Levens (Executive Director of the Cheshire YMCA) shared plans to survey families of children with special needs regarding programming to support students with special needs at the YMCA. He is connecting with the Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) to conduct the survey. This survey will be for parents. The survey does not meet the criteria for approval by the board of education.

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 7:47 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Hanlon
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator