

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, June 9, 2025 – 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, Principal - CHS; Katie Oparowski, World Language Teacher - CHS; Josephine Countryman, World Language - CHS; Jillian Puckett, K-12 Art Department Chair - Norton; Nicole Kliegl, K-12 Music Department Chair - CHS

Public:

None

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment in person or via email

**2. [Review Minutes of April 21, 2025 Meeting](#)**

*Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2025, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the April 21, 2025 minutes. The motion passed.*

**3. New Business**

a. Out-of-Country Field Trip

● [CHS - Italy - April 3-13, 2026](#)

Katie Oparowski and Josephine Countryman shared details of a planned out-of-country field trip to Italy during April break next year. The trip includes stops in Milan, Cirque Terre, Florence, Rome, and Sorrento. Students will be immersed in the language and culture that they have been studying per curricula via Italian and Latin. The cost of the trip is \$5,144.

*Dr. Harrigan made a motion to send the out-of-country field trip to Italy from April 3-13, 2026 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. K-12 Art - Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) Summary

Jillian Puckett provided an executive summary of the K-12 Art CCC five year review. Recent work in the Art Department has emphasized the academic choice; responsiveness to student needs, interests, and experiences; writing curriculum; and focusing on teaching the artistic process, not just the final product. Future work will include creating a clear scope and sequence; spiral media, skills and concepts through Curriculum Guides; continuing developing curriculum; and publicizing “digestible” curriculum to all stakeholders. One of the commendations from the CCC Committee was the emphasis on real world, authentic applications of art.

b. K-12 Music - Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) Summary

Nicole Kliegl shared an executive summary of the K-12 Music CCC five year review. In reflecting on the previous CCC cycle, the music department has fully aligned to current standards, moved documents to a shared curriculum drive, worked on a scope and sequence, and provided appropriate professional development. An indicator of the success in the work in music is the growth in the numbers of students participating in elective music opportunities. The next CCC cycle will focus on continuing to develop a clear scope and sequence including common language integrated throughout the K-12 curriculum; collaborating across schools for common courses (elementary); refining common assessments; growing the music technology pathway; and providing department-wide professional development including teacher to teacher observations. The goals of the department are all in service of balancing an experienced-based and performance-based curriculum and opportunities for students.

c. Early Admission to Kindergarten and Transition K Program

Marlene Silano shared the status of this year’s early admission to Kindergarten process and Transition K program. Last year, 31 families petitioned for early admission into Kindergarten. After the screening process, 12 students were admitted to Kindergarten early. Based on how admitted students are doing this year, the screening process appears appropriate. This year, 25 families petitioned for early admission into Kindergarten this year, and 8 students were admitted into Kindergarten early for next year. For the 2025-26 school year, there will be two sections of the Transition K program. The Transition K program will not be offered in the 2026-27 school year when the new elementary buildings open.

d. Preliminary Safe School Climate Survey Results

The District Safe School Climate Surveys were administered in April to students, parents, and teachers. Marlene Silano gave an initial overview of the parent results. There were overall strengths in high standards for academic and behavior expectations, safe school environments, fairness and equity, welcoming and inclusive culture, and parent communication and involvement. The areas for continued attention include student behavior and discipline and misuse of technology by students. There was a lower than typical response from parents, making the results potentially not entirely representative. The district would like to repeat the survey in the fall, using times like parents conferences and other fall events to increase participation.

**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 8:17 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
Principal, Cheshire High School