

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Chair), Dr. Anne Harrigan, Tim White, and Heather Fitzgerald

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Azra Redzic, Curriculum Coordinator

Community Members Present: None

7:00 call to order

1. Public Comment

No public comment in-person or via email.

2. Review Minutes of December 8, 2025 Meeting

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2025, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan, Ms. Fitzgerald and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the December 8, 2025 minutes. The motion passed.

3. Informational Items

a. New CSDE Voluntary Family Reading Survey

The CSDE has released the Family Reading Survey which is part of the CT Right to Read legislation. All districts are required to administer this survey. Families volunteer to complete it. It was noted that there is no funding attached to this mandate. CPS administrative staff, school principals, school secretaries will need training in understanding the intent of the survey in order to support families during the registration process. This is especially important due to the personal nature of the questions related to parents' early reading history/difficulties.

Azra Redzic shared the Voluntary Family Reading Survey and highlighted the following items:

- The survey must be administered this year during the winter benchmark window/parent-teacher conferences; all K–3 families will have an opportunity to complete the survey this year.
- Beginning with the 2026–27 school year and beyond, all newly registered families, regardless of grade, must be given an opportunity to complete the survey.
- Questionnaire results and scores will be stored in the student’s confidential file.
- Every question includes a family-friendly explanation in case families ask why a particular survey/question is included.
- The survey is available only in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. (Information from the survey and research is not supported in non-alphabetic languages, e.g., Arabic or Mandarin.
- Districts must offer the survey at least once. If a family does not complete the survey when initially offered, the district may choose to reoffer it to those families the following year or during upcoming meetings.
- Districts may also offer the survey as an optional step during a PPT meeting for a family that did not complete it previously. However, this would not be part of the identification process.
- There are no legal obligations to use the information from the questionnaire. It is intended solely as a tool to triangulate data.

b. PASS Data Results

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared PASS information. PASS Survey (Pupil Attitudes Toward Self and School) district summary highlighted overall district findings key areas of strength, and areas for focus/further investigation. Data is reviewed at the district level, school level, grade, and classroom level. Overall, results indicate healthy students with strong connections to learning and school.

c. Safe School Climate Survey Results

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared the Safe School Climate Survey results, which include responses from students, families, and staff. Students completed 26 questions, families responded to 25 questions, and staff responded to 39 questions. Areas of strength and opportunities for growth were identified. Data are analyzed at the district and school levels, and Safe School Climate Committees review and analyze the data as well. Survey questions were aligned with state guidance. Overall key takeaways were shared.

d. STEM Coordinator Budget Request

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, was asked to share additional information on this staffing request. Ms Silano shared that Cheshire is a highly performing school district; however, there is an ongoing focus on continuous improvement and always room to grow. Department chairs do not always have the flexibility to engage in the type of coaching work or professional learning needed at the secondary level. Department chairs have a wide range of responsibilities, including managerial duties, which can limit their ability to consistently provide this level of instructional support and coaching. In contrast, administrators are able to support curriculum

revision and implementation, hear directly from teachers, and serve as a bridge between administration and teachers for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Key focus areas of the Secondary Curriculum Supervisor role were shared.

To leverage and continuously improve NGSS instruction, two science coaches at lower grade levels are currently supporting this work. The next phase would be to strengthen science and math instruction at the high school level through high-quality STEM instruction. The identified need is for supervision of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. This position would serve as a counterpart to the PK–8 Curriculum Coordinator.

e. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared that Kindergarten Registration will take place on February 4 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A press release has been shared and existing families have been informed via school newsletters to ensure they are aware of where their child will attend school in the fall. Lawn signs will be posted in the coming days.

An early dismissal for all schools is scheduled for January 16 and will be dedicated to staff collaboration.

Staffing decisions related to redistricting are being made with a focus on equity, experience, and tenure to ensure that transitions are strategic, intentional, and supportive of both schools and staff. A high level of care is being taken in determining staff placement.

March professional development for staff at the new schools will focus on helping teachers get to know one another, particularly for teaching teams that may be new. Team and culture building activities will be provided for new staff. Principals are also planning spring/summer student activities so students can build connections with one another. Overall, the team is focused on making this transition smooth, positive, and engaging for everyone.

4. **Adjourn**

Ms. Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan, Dr. Harrigan, Mr. White and Ms. Fitzgerald voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Azra Redzic

Azra Redzic
PK-8 Curriculum Coordinator

Next Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm