

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, May 18, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**

### **Humiston Board Room**

#### **Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Chair) and Tim White

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Azra Redzic, Curriculum Coordinator, CHS; Kevin Hanlon, Principal, Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal, Julie Barker, Physics Department Chair, Leslie Paier, Business Department Chair

Community Members Present: None

6:35 call to order

#### **1. Public Comment**

No public comment in-person or via email.

#### **2. Review Minutes of April 20, 2026 Meeting**

*Tim White made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan and Tim White voted to approve the May 20, 2026 minutes. The motion passed.*

#### **3. New Business**

##### **a. New Textbook Recommendation**

- i. OSX: Physics for High School, Paul Peter Urone and Roger Hinrichs presented the new Physics text book.

Julie Barker, Physics Department Chair, shared a unique opportunity to update a resource for a physics text. Currently, physical textbooks are used but the online capabilities sunset a few years ago. This resource would support both Honors Physics and AP Physics.

OpenStax provides free online access, meaning costs would only be incurred for students who require a printed copy in accordance with IEP or 504 plans. The textbook would serve as a supplemental resource rather than drive the curriculum. It would provide additional content support and guided practice. The text offers strong physics content with supportive tools and clarity, including embedded checks, interactive

simulation links, and videos to support student learning. The team determined that this resource would effectively meet the department's needs and help supplement the curriculum.

A committee of teachers reviewed the resource as part of a multi-year process. Other resources were considered but did not meet the department's criteria or align with curricular needs. The team also met with textbook representatives and reviewed the resource for inclusivity. This digital resource includes an ongoing review process. In addition, the administrative team reviewed the resource, and the committee conducted an in-depth side-by-side comparison. The team found the depth and rigor of the content to be strong and well aligned to instructional goals.

Mr. White made a motion to recommend the adoption of the OpenStax e-physics textbook to the full board following a two-week public review period. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Mr. White and Ms. Cullinan voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **4. Informational Items**

##### **a. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trips**

###### **i. [CHS - FIRST Robotics Championship Competition - Houston, TX 4/28-5/2/26](#)**

Maureen Reed, CHS Assistant Principal, shared that the trip already took place. The team finished 68th out of 75 teams in their division. Overall, there were 597 teams participating from around the world.

##### **b. Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) Summary**

###### **i. Business 9-12**

Leslie Paier, Department Chair of the Business Department shared the executive summary with the council. Video clips of students were shown and highlighted the meaningful impact the business curriculum has had, including examples of students pursuing double majors.

Business-related clubs such as DECA, FBLA, Mock Trial, and the Investment Club help create these meaningful learning experiences. Students are highly engaged and able to make real-world connections through these opportunities. Partnerships with colleges also support student learning. For example, students participated in a field trip to Yale University last week to learn about investments. The Stock Market Game Challenge is another example that allows students to explore buying and selling trades and understand their impact on the stock market. These experiences demonstrate strong curriculum connections and authentic learning opportunities.

The Business Department also follows the district's commitment to Complex Thinking, Making Thinking Visible, and Social Emotional Learning. Students are encouraged to make meaningful connections and apply their understanding to real-world contexts.

Currently, 18 different business courses are offered, many of which mirror experiences and skills students would encounter in the business world. Six of the 18 courses offer college credit opportunities. Some courses are associated with Tunxis Community College, while Microeconomics and Macroeconomics are connected to UConn through AP/ECE credit opportunities.

Mrs. Paier also shared internship opportunities available to students and expressed interest in expanding these opportunities further. Within professional development, a key area of need identified was the use of AI and its integration within the curriculum.

In 2023, Next Gen Personal Finance recognized CHS for making personal finance a graduation requirement.

The department also shared its 2026–2031 five-year goals with the committee in the areas of curriculum, texts, resources and technology, instructional strategies, assessment, and professional development.

c. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Assistant Superintendent Silano shared that the Cheshire Strategic Planning Committee has been gathering to discuss AI. In addition, the District Instructional Leadership Committee will be meeting tomorrow to focus on AI and begin crafting an AI literacy plan for students.

A tour of Barnum will take place this Thursday for paraprofessionals, PE, and music staff, as some individuals may not have had an opportunity to visit the building.

Curriculum writing has begun with Reading and Math Specialists and coaches to get a jump-start on curriculum work. This process differs from the traditional approach by incorporating an ongoing feedback loop to support continuous refinement and improvement.

Math pathway discussions have also begun. Meetings with middle school math teachers were held last week, and these conversations will continue with high school math teachers in grades 9–12 as the work progresses and plans for next year are developed.

**Adjourn**

*Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Mr. White and Ms. Cullinan voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Azra Redzic*

Azra Redzic  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator