

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Monday, June 8, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

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

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Azra Redzic, Curriculum Coordinator, CHS; Kevin Hanlon, Principal, Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal, Nicole Kliegl, Dodd; Kelly Grillo, Principal, Tom Tuscano, Math Division Leader, Highland; Kristine Trifone, Reading and Math Specialist, Brittany Culver, Reading and Math Specialist.

Community Members Present: None

7:01 PM call to order

1. Public Comment- None

2. Review Minutes of May 18, 2026 Meeting

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2026 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald, Dr. Harrigan, and Ms. Cullinan voted to approve the May 18, 2026 minutes. The motion passed.

3. Informational Items

- a. Report on Field Trip to Disney Orlando - CHS Band/Chorus/Orchestra - February 2026

Nicole Kliegl, Music Department Chair, reported on the Cheshire High School Music Trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. Three CHS music teachers chaperoned the trip, including Andi Conrad, Greg Bell, and Nicole Kliegl. One teacher and a parent volunteer transported all musical instruments. Ms. Kliegl highlighted the educational objectives of the trip, which included evaluation of choral and instrumental musical performances. During the trip, students participated in an interactive soundtrack session in Disney's state of the art sound studio, delivered a performance at Disney Springs, and recorded choral and instrumental performances set to two Disney movies. Additionally, Ms. Kliegl shared that CHS received a \$500 donation for the Cheshire School Choir made by Alice Gebhart, a park visitor, who was deeply touched by the students' outstanding performance.

b. Goblins - Math Resource

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Goblin, a cutting-edge digital tool and resource designed to support math instruction for students who could benefit from extra academic support. The platform aligns closely with Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) practices and instructional strategies. The tool was trialed at Dodd Middle School and within the Cheshire High School Math Department. The tool will be used strategically at Dodd and CHS for students who could benefit from additional math support, particularly in Algebra I and Geometry.

Students reported preferring Goblin over Khan Academy, noting that the platform tailors its instruction to their specific area of need. The tool is flexible and can be accessed by students during study halls, independent practice, RAM time, I-Block, or at home in the evening when teachers are unavailable. The platform allows users to work through problems step-by-step and receive immediate feedback and instruction.

Mr. Tuscano shared a demonstration of Goblin, showcasing both the student interface and the teacher dashboard. Teachers and interventionists are able to log in simultaneously. The platform accommodates varying levels of complexity, from basic questions to in-depth problem-solving, allowing teachers to assess student progress based on specific standards.

Ms. Silano shared that the Cheshire Education Foundation (CEF) indicated at its meeting last week that they are willing to fund this initiative.

c. Standards Based Report Card - Grade 7 & 8 Math

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared updates regarding the implementation of a standards based report card for math courses only in grades 7 and 8 at Dodd Middle School. The goal of this initiative is to create a system that provides students and families with complete clarity around specific math standards. Math teachers have already transitioned to a standards-based classroom model, and their assessments currently utilize a standards-based approach. It was noted that traditional letter grades, such as an A or a B, do not sufficiently demonstrate a student's specific skill mastery.

This transition will not shift day-to-day instruction or grading; the only shift is how student progress is reported and provided to students and parents. Standards-based reporting will allow educators to hone in closely on specific areas of student need. To ensure parents are clear on the changes, family information sessions will be held at both the beginning of the year and halfway through the school year.

Kelly Grillo, Dodd principal, and Tom Tuscano, Math Division Leader, shared the extensive work that has been done with standards-based grading in math. Ms. Grillo reported on the positive impact of having Tom Nobili from Partners for Educational Leadership work with Tom Tuscano and the Dodd math department to support Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) instructional practices. Additionally, Tom Nobili is currently completing a curriculum audit at the high school level, specifically focusing on Geometry, while also leveraging the fact that Tom Tuscano has taught the Geometry curriculum for over seven years. The district will determine the next steps once the audit is finalized.

d. Curriculum Revisions

Kristine Trifone and Brittany Culver, Reading and Math Specialists from Highland, shared updates on curriculum revision work.. Their report highlighted recent updates made to both the social studies and English Language Arts (ELA) units across various grade levels. These revisions ensure that the curriculum remains aligned with current educational standards and continues to meet the needs of students.

e. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared the Discover Your Future in Aviation flyer. This event was part of a plan to gauge community interest in potential future career pathways for students at Cheshire High School. As part of this process, Marlene Silano, Kevin Hanlon and Tom Lewoc met with representatives from a local EAA Chapter to learn more about an aviation curriculum for high school students. Marc Scott, from EAA serves as a point person and will be a conduit for an open house in Meriden to give families more information about careers in aviation.

A Cheshire team is collaborating on an upcoming informational session to create summer internship experiences with Ball & Socket Arts. These opportunities could include helping with various art events, assisting with the scheduling of artists, and supporting other scheduled 2026 happenings. There may be several music students who may be interested in participating. The possible internships offer a wide range of venues and opportunities for student involvement, largely depending on individual student interest. A number of students have already been connected with Ball & Socket Arts, for potential summer volunteer internships.

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, also shared a report on New Friends Day. She presented pictures of students who were transported from schools across the district to participate in various get-to-know-you activities. The event was supported by 48 high school juniors and seniors serving as future RAM-bassadors. The presentation included powerful images of students connecting with one another. A special thank you was given to school principals for organizing this tremendous event at the busiest time of the school year and Luther Miller highlighting the transportation and busing efforts that made the day possible.

4. Adjourn

*Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Harrigan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan, Dr. Harrigan, Mr. White and Ms. Fitzgerald voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled in **September 2026 - Date TBA***

Respectfully submitted,

Azra Redzic

Azra Redzic K-8 Curriculum Coordinator