

Cheshire Public Schools



Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Thursday, September 17, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Humiston Board Room

Live viewing will be available at: <http://www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools>

Public questions and comments may be made via email to BOEcontact@cheshire.k12.ct.us

MINUTES

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

Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present: Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Azra Redzic, Curriculum Coordinator, CHS; Kevin Hanlon, Principal, Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal,

Community Members Present: None

7:03 PM call to order

1. Public Comment- None

2. [Review Minutes of June 8, 2026 Meeting](#)

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2026 Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Dr. Harrigan and Ms. Cullinan voted to approve June 8, 2026 minutes. The motion passed.

3. Informational Items

a. CT State Testing Results

Azra Redzic, PK-8 Curriculum Coordinator, shared student sample SBA reports and unpacked a Grade 5 sample report with the team. The committee discussed how assessment data is triangulated at both the teacher and school levels to ensure student interventions and supports are intentional, strategic, and targeted to specific areas of need. Based on emerging data and trends,

the district routinely evaluates curriculum, programmatic adjustments, and instructional implications.

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, presented an overview of the state testing results, highlighting key areas of strength alongside opportunities for growth. Overall, district student performance remained relatively stable, with notable gains across several grade levels alongside targeted areas requiring closer attention, most significantly Grade 5.

Key assessment gains included improvements in Science (NGSS) for Grades 8 and 11, Mathematics for Grades 4, 6, and 7, and English Language Arts (ELA) for Grades 3 and 7. Mrs. Silano explained that while performance across the district is generally consistent, upcoming priorities will focus on improving 9th-grade Math performance, primarily in Geometry, closing the achievement gap for Multilingual Learners, and addressing the impact of chronic absenteeism on overall student achievement.

Finally, the committee noted that parent conferences are coming up and provide an important opportunity for families to discuss student progress. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to reach out at any time, not just during scheduled conference days, to connect with teachers, principals, or other school administrators regarding assessment data, student progress, or to schedule a meeting.

b. Summer Instructional Projects/Curriculum Writing Update

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent reported that a formal Curriculum Writing Institute (CWI) was not conducted this year. Instead, subject area coaches spent the final three weeks of the school year revising and enhancing curriculum.

Completed & Refined Curriculum Projects:

Grades 2 and 3 Reading Units;

Kindergarten through Grade 3 Phonics Scope and Sequence,

Grade 5 Social Studies (2 1/2units); Grades 5–8 Social Studies Scope and Sequence.

ELA: Grades 7 and 8 Morphology (prefixes, suffixes, root/base words, Greek and Latin roots)

Science: Grades 7 and 8 initial units.

The team discussed the functions and alignment of various teacher-leadership roles across the district. To provide greater clarity and consistency, the team discussed developing a resource that identifies who holds each teacher-leadership position and clearly outlines the responsibilities associated with each role, including Division Leaders (DL) at the middle school, Department Heads (DH) at the high school, and elementary coaches/Reading and Math Specialists (RAMS).

c. Pass Survey Letter to Families

Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent, shared that the parent notification letter regarding the Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) survey will be sent home on Monday. The PASS survey will be administered in October.

d. Assistant Superintendent's Update

Marlene Silano, shared that the district is currently exploring the Kira platform through a live demo to evaluate its potential as an AI-supported curriculum writing tool. The platform is being piloted specifically to streamline the development of AI literacy curriculum and Geometry and help teachers compile instructional materials far more efficiently.

The committee received an update on the implementation of standards-based grading in grades 7 and 8 mathematics. To support families in understanding the new approach, the district will share an informational video, FAQ, and sample report card in advance. Four parent information sessions will also be offered at varying times. The district emphasized proactive communication to ensure families understand how standards-based reporting provides more specific information about student learning.

4. Adjourn

Dr. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Dr. Harrigan, Mr. White and Ms. Cullinan voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Azra Redzic

Azra Redzic K-8 Curriculum Coordinator