

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 5:04 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Michael Young.

PRESENT Michael Young (Virtual), Chair, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angie Moser, Miriam Underwood, Jennifer Dzen, Gary Blanchette, Steve Viens

ALSO PRESENT Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Kelly Browne, K-12 Lead Math specialist

AGENDA ITEMS

Math Teaching and Learning Update

Mr. Barton provided the committee with a math curriculum update. Mr. Barton and Ms. Browne gave a slide presentation that reviewed the DIP goals for Math and focused on the gap issues of COVID and vertical integration, using data more frequently to make decisions. Over the past few years, we have implemented Bridges Curriculum, which is aligned with Common Core state standards and instructional approach. Ms. Browne highlighted a new system for collaboration specifically around curricular issues, with one math specialist point person identified at each grade level. Examples include Aligning report card standards with curriculum, generating challenge and remediation activities, and assessing consistently. The math specialists are working directly with students about 90% of the time either push-in or pull-out. Mr. Barton clarified that the collaboration between EMS and EHS was particularly helpful for the math instructors to share expectations for retakes on tests and understand behavioral expectations for math work. The use of Edulastic and other tools were discussed to assist teachers to use data and provide students with immediate feedback. Ms. Browne reviewed a sample data sheet for a class that identified how the class as a whole did on a topic down to individual students' performances, resulting in an action plan. As teachers began to develop more challenging tasks, some "glitches" of entry into Edulastic surfaced and were addressed.

Ms. Browne presented several examples of math problems and instructional strategies and discussed how some of the Bridges problems that request a specific strategy have been modified to allow students to use their preferred way to solve problems.

Middle School and High School Advanced Academic Opportunities

In response to a requested update on enrichment opportunities at a previous meeting, Mr. Barton described options over the past few years for advanced academic work for EMS students taking Latin, Arabic, Robotics, and other options at EHS. Mr. Barton also clarified that, if qualified, 8th grade math students can simultaneously take Geometry at EMS or EHS. He also briefly highlighted that changes in staffing will enable Library Media Specialists to support enrichment opportunities differently and more frequently in each building.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: A. Moser
Second: M. Underwood
To adjourn the meeting of the Curriculum Committee (6:05 p.m.)
Motion carried unanimously.

