

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Dr. Michael Young.

PRESENT Dr. Michael Young, Chair, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angie Moser, Liz Nord, Miriam Underwood

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Emily Wry, Kelly Browne.

AGENDA ITEMS

K-3 Reading Curriculum Materials Pilot (Core Knowledge ELA, CKLA)

Mr. Young called on Mr. Barton to provide an update on an upcoming pilot test of the [Core Knowledge LA K-3 Reading Curriculum](#) that would be acceptable to the State Department of Education's emphasis on the Science of Reading. Mr. Barton reviewed who was working on the Literacy team, the waiver process for the CSDE approval of early literacy programs, and the proposed process for piloting the CKLA curriculum. Ms. Wry reported that several members of the Literacy team participated in the CSDE master class on the Science of Reading. This training focused on the principles of the Science of Reading and the team reviewed the current resources that were in use in EPS. There was teacher-centered interest in moving to a well-integrated curriculum that also continued to nurture students' love of reading.

The pilot was designed to represent grades from each elementary school. The CKLA curriculum will be piloted in Fall 2023. This will cost about \$25K, for 11 teachers, drawing on CT State funds at a level of \$45K over 2 years (total \$90K) for new literacy curriculum adoption.

Grade Five Pilot of Illustrative Math (IM)

Mr. Barton was asked to update the committee on a 5th-grade pilot of the [Illustrative Math](#) curriculum. Mr. Barton and Ms. Browne explained that EPS existing math curriculum by Bridges was not doing all we had hoped for in 4th and 5th Math, especially in relation to problem-solving and conceptual understanding. The higher grades (6-9) are experiencing success with Illustrative Math. There was a need to align 4th and 5th math with the approach in the higher grades. In this sense, it represents a possible "rolling down" of the curriculum that would make sense for our schools. Part of the justification for a change was to move toward a more student-centered approach, to support their application of mathematical thinking and problem-solving, and to increase rigor. But there was also caution that changing both the literacy and math curriculum simultaneously might present challenges for teachers.

Ms. Browne described how the process might support teachers in implementing the pilot in all 5th-grade classes across the district, plus at Center School, the 4th-grade teacher will also participate in the pilot. She also described plans to communicate and prepare all teachers and parents by discussing the pilot at parent open house presentations. Ms. Browne describe how plans for the pilot consider many possible side effects, such as impacting how report cards might look, and reported that since 5th-grade report cards are already standards-based, there would be no impact on report cards and the assessments will be built out in our existing Edulastic, with the help of experienced teachers.

Ms. Browne was also asked for a timeline for making the curriculum more transparent for the entire community by providing updated parent/community information on the EPS website. She said the Illustrative Math curriculum does provide support for linking and information to the broader community as was as specific support for parents.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: M. Kupferschmid

Second: A. Moser

To adjourn the meeting of the Curriculum Committee (6:34 p.m.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Approved

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Michael Young, Curriculum Committee Chair

