

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on Tuesday, August 22, 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 5:04 p.m. by Dr. Michael Young.

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

ABSENT Liz Nord

ALSO PRESENT Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. John Guidry, High School Principal

AGENDA ITEMS

Update on High School Accreditation Report (NEASC)

Mr. Young asked Mr. Barton to provide the committee with an update on the report received on Ellington High School from the NEASC review. The report documents three priority areas: details, commendations, and recommendations.

The 6 foundational elements were reviewed by NEASC, from which EHS fully met 5 of the 6, as identified in the self-study, and work was already underway to address issues on the remaining element. That element, 2.2A student learning, about a written accessible curriculum had been identified in the self-study. The self-study had identified that curricular elements should all be centered on the Vision of the Graduate, and this was being addressed by elementary and middle schools, as well as the high school.

Mr. Guidry pointed out the commendation of EHS's involvement in Student Voice and how it is implemented in student choices and opportunities to find their passions. The commendation also noted that common planning (PLG) periods for all departments will help nurture systemic initiatives, and the High School Instructional Learning Team (ILT), paid teacher leaders, will be sharing a summative narrative about the progress that results. Mr. Guidry noted how the Registrar function has been handled by high school counselors and administration.

Ms. Dzen asked about a standard syllabus framework and how that might vertically align with the elementary curriculum. Mr. Barton explained that starting with high school issues of the curriculum enables a standardized digital curriculum to be created using a 5-year renewal plan for all courses that has already been implemented.

Ms. Underwood asked if the curriculum documents were going to be publicly accessible. Mr. Guidry reported that syllabi will be made available to parents and the full curriculum will be digitally accessible.

Ms. Dzen asked if the transition from middle to high school was also a focus discussed. Mr. Barton and Mr. Guidry reviewed existing efforts and their commitment to making the transition smoother on both the 8th and 9th-grade ends (e.g. Link Crew).

NEASC identified 3 recommendations including expanding co-teaching, student voice and opinions, and the stakeholders involved in the SIP, earlier in the process if possible. The report will be discussed with faculty as part of the opening of school. December 2024 will feature a follow-up site visit by a NEASC team at which these points will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: M. Underwood

Second: A. Moser

To adjourn the meeting of the Curriculum Committee (5:48 p.m.)

Motion carried unanimously.

