

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Center Elementary School Library, 49 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

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

PRESENT Michael Young, Chair, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angie Moser (virtual), Liz Nord, Miriam Underwood (virtual), Gary Blanchette

ALSO PRESENT Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations

AGENDA ITEMS

Windermere Education Specifications

Mr. Young called on Mr. Greenleaf for an update on the Windermere Education Specifications (ed specs) for classroom designs. Mr. Greenleaf reported that the priority of the ed specs is to optimize the number of general education spaces that could be multifunctional and support high quality teaching. These and related priorities are based on the EPS core values.

Mr. Young inquired about a number of issues including accommodating Unified Arts and their special needs for space and power (such as a kiln for Art), spaces for small groups of students to attend remote learning classes from Windermere, and support for teacher personalization of each classroom. The integrated Library Media and Makerspace was key to many of the specialized uses that were discussed. Mr. Young also inquired about school security issues of the ed specs, including visibility through door interior doors and the reduction of doors that had direct outside access.

Ms. Nord inquired about the floor and subfloor with regard to running conduit or cables. Mr. Greenleaf described some of the issues that differed regarding a structure built on a first floor slab versus perhaps a second story floor.

Mr. Young inquired about the availability of public spaces like hallways to support performance art or small music ensembles. Mr. Greenleaf described that the ed specs would enable placement of some moveable walls that might allow for flexibility of that sort.

Mr. Young asked about public digital displays of student work and the consideration of breakout groups of students needing to digitally collaborate on whiteboard or digital displays. Mr. Greenleaf said the ed spec called for classrooms to have capabilities to display digital content in both the front and back of the rooms.

Ms. Nord inquired if the existing science lab would remain. Mr. Greenleaf reported that it would remain but be redesigned and updated with either fixed vs. flexible science lab sinks and other lab capabilities.

Ms. Moser added the committee's appreciation for Mr. Greenleaf's work on the ed specs, his level of experience with school building projects, and the success of the project to date.

Mr. Greenleaf reported that he would continue taking input for the next few weeks and hoped for final adoption by the Board at the July BOE meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: M. Kupferschmid

Second: L. Nord

To adjourn the meeting of the Curriculum Committee (5:52 PM)

Motion carried unanimously.

