

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Michael Young.

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

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

AGENDA ITEMS

Curriculum Webpage Review/Promoting Transparency of Educational Programming

The committee discussed and reviewed the [Curriculum Committee](#) and the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) website pages to create a plan to update and better curate the layout and content of the information presented. It was discussed how the meeting minutes might be uploaded in a timely manner and in addition, if links to SIP/DIP and Superintendent goals related to curriculum might be annually updated. In the interest of transparency, the committee discussed if the public links to the various school libraries might be housed on one of these web pages. Transparency for parents is the first priority but information for the broader community is just as important, as it affects voters and real estate values as well as the issue of local governance.

Ms. Nord asked if elementary teachers communicate with parents weekly, and Mr. Barton informed the committee that it varies but typically communications include Fall open house, conferences, and other major touchpoints.

When parents' concerns or questions emerge from communications, the administration is ready to provide more information and solve problems. This is a goal of EPS efforts to improve transparency and broaden communications.

Mr. Barton brought up an updated website and described plans to update the Annual Report format. He also is considering adding a link to the [EdSight State Database](#).

EDUinnovate Fall 2022 Grant Cycle

Mr. Barton was asked to present the Fall 2022 grant recommendations from EDUinnovate.

MOTION **Ms. Nord to endorse the acceptance of the 7 grants awarded by EDUinnovate**
First: Ms. Nord
Second: Ms. Moser
Ms. Nord to endorse the acceptance of the 7 grants awarded by EDUinnovate.
The motion carried unanimously.

NGSS Report

Mr. Young introduced Mr. Barton to update the committee on work on the life, physical, and earth/space science curriculum. Our State results on the science test for grades 5, 8, and 11 from 2022 show our performance has room for improvement, particularly in the higher grades. Comparing 2021-2022 Ellington performance to statewide data pre- and post-COVID (2018-19 vs 2021-22) shows the Ellington curriculum (that allows choices of science courses), may be impacting our students' performance. More information and attention will need to be given to this trend.

Wednesday before Thanksgiving there is a planned meeting with teachers to consider the alignment of our science curriculum with the topics covered by the NGSS assessment. EPS Middle school curriculum may have more opportunities to do this alignment, given the choices given to high school students with regard to science course selection. Our efforts to present science enrichment in grades 4, 5, & 6 (that are lab-based) one experience per month, may impact our performance on the NGSS metric.

The Curriculum subcommittee will look forward to reports on these efforts and will hope to support our teachers' efforts to improve our students' preparation in these important science areas.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: L. Nord

Second: G. Blanchette

To adjourn the meeting of the Curriculum Committee (5:26 p.m.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Approved