

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met in the Ellington High School Library Media Center on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Mr. Gary Blanchette and Mr. Michael Young, Ms. Marcia Kupferschmid, Ms. Miriam Underwood, Ms. Angela Moser, Ms. Kris Picard-Wambolt, Ms. Jen Dzen.

Administrative Team Members: Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Oliver Barton and Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Technology.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Young at 5:04 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. *Review Preliminary State Assessment Data.*

Mr. Young introduced the agenda and asked Mr. Hendrickson to brief the committee on preliminary State Assessment Data. Mr. Hendrickson introduced Mr. Oliver Barton as the new Assistant Superintendent who was welcomed by the committee. Mr. Hendrickson began by briefing the committee on the increased capabilities of Infinite Campus and Mr. Fliss' work on creating a system to optimize the access to and use of Ellington assessment data.

Mr. Hendrickson provided the committee a CSDE document of considerations when reviewing and/or interpreting 2020-21 COVID era data. Cautions included awareness that students may have missed classes, attended classes in a variety of formats, experienced financial and emotional stresses, and taken the test unproctored at home. The CSDE document also compared year to year, and across districts may not be possible due to difference in in-person test participation rates as well as the other considerations noted.

Preliminary review of Ellington-specific SBAC data showed “learning loss” as defined by students moving from standards-based categories (meeting or exceeding CCSS to below or approaching goals) did occur during the emergency pivot to hybrid and remote learning. While Ellington worked to maintain in-person classes as an option for parents, disruptions of normal instruction had some impact. Comparing across years, by cohort, our students did lose some ground with regard to English Language Arts and Mathematics, but the pattern varied substantially by grade level and building. It is impossible to determine at this time if a similar pattern occurred in other school districts comparable to Ellington or the overall state in general.

With new data visualizations and tools available with our adoption of Infinite Campus, a finer grained analysis will be needed to establish policies and priorities. Most likely a differentiated approach by building and grade level will be needed to establish an optimal use of resources that addresses the test performance and achievement issues we identify on the basis of 2020-21 statewide test performance.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 pm.

1st. M. Underwood

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young

Curriculum Committee, Chair