

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT.

Attendees:

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

Administrative Team Members: Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Young at 5:01 p.m.

Ms. Underwood was recognized for a brief question to Mr. Hendrickson concerning what teacher evaluation was done for 2020-2021. Mr. Hendrickson described that while the formal teacher evaluation process (TEVAL) was suspended, prompted by the August 2020 memo from Education Commissioner Cardona, PDEC teams met in schools and the evaluation instrument was revised to be streamlined and a narrative was put in to replace the prior rating scale. This revised TEVAL process was shared with all teachers, and was developed in collaboration with school PDEC teams. Ms. Underwood asked if the intention was to return to the TEVAL that was in place before COVID. Mr. Hendrickson explained that he was invited to participate on a possible revision to the TEVAL process at the state level to ensure the process is as growth-oriented and supportive of teachers. A brief discussion of all the factors present in the current teacher evaluation system and the impacts ensued. Even though ideally teacher evaluation has holistic goals for teachers' continuous professional development, there can be a sense that the formal summative rating calculations become a more narrow focus in the current process.

Agenda Items:

1. *Review EDUinnovate Grant Proposals*

Mr. Young proceeded to the agenda and asked Mr. Hendrickson to brief the committee on the seven proposed EDUinnovate grants to be accepted for 2021.

<u>Project</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Center School Sensory Path / floor and wall decals	Center	Lauren Smaglis
Seeds of Civility Garden / every homeroom have a planter	Crystal Lake	CLS Faculty
Flexible Seating-Focusing our Minds and Bodies	Crystal Lake	Brianne Malone
Laser Printed Activities / Glowforge +	EHS	Sheri Winchell-LaPlaca
Southwest Grand Canyon Educational Tour / 3 experiences with park ranger	EHS	Gomathi Ramachandran
Tapping into EMC2 Learning / online library access	EMS	Buffey Harris-Fogarty
Virtual Voyages / 4 VR Oculus headsets	EMS	Jennifer Melnick

As described in the table above, three grants were awarded to elementary schools, two at the high school, and two at our middle school. We would support these grants going forward with the caveat that Mr. Hendrickson has discussed existing policies for technology and allocation of support to students for travel and educational enrichment experiences, and pending associated Board of Education approvals. Ms. Picard-Wambolt noted that the unfunded EHS proposal was for a school-wide initiative but did not seem to show evidence of school-wide support for use of the proposed materials. A discussion took place concerning how proposals need to clarify their intended scope if intended to impact all teachers, which may need to entail a different level of information that is currently requested on proposal forms. Mr. Hendrickson stated that he would share that feedback with EDUinnovate.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

1st. M. Underwood

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young

Curriculum Committee, Chair

