

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

The Curriculum Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met for a virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Administrative Team Members: Mr. Brian Hendrickson, John Collins, Michael Nash, Jennifer Hill, Michael Verderame, Susan Nash-Ditzel, and Liz Cole.

Board of Education Subcommittee Members: Ms. Miriam Underwood, Mr. Michael Young (Chair), Mr. Gary Blanchette, Ms. Marcia Kupfershmid, and Ms. Picard-Wambolt.

Additional Board of Ed members present: Ms. Jen Dzen and Ms Liz Nord.

Additional Guests: Jennifer Brown, Dan Spada, Danielle Vliet, Don Bartomioli, Sara Varga and Taylor Parker.

Public Viewers: Approximately 2 members of the public attended the meeting via teleconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dr. Young at 4:59 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. *Citizen and Staff Forum*

No one addressed the Committee.

2. *Grading and Report Cards - EHS, EMS and K-6 Update*

Liz Cole provided a description of how students in high school were given the option of Pass/Fail for numerical grades for Q3 and Q4. Several resources on the topic of pass/fail and Q3 and Q4 grading at the high school, including a [YouTube video](#) and [FAQ document](#) were described.

Mr. Nash provided a description of how grades were handled at the middle school. Students were given comments about various levels of achievement in course content. Mr. Blanchette inquired how many students showed only limited engagement during the distance learning process. Mr Nash reported most students were fully engaged, but there are a few areas in which participating is lower and a few students who are in need of followup with regard to engagement. The State is only keeping records of chronic absenteeism for fully in-person school days. Ms Pickard asked about placement recommendations. Mr Nash reported that those recommendations were made in January this year.

Dr. Nash-Ditzel provided a narrative description of how grades were handled at the elementary schools. Certainly the dependence of distance education at the elementary level on parent involvement needed to be recognized. A model template drawing from the usually standards-based report card will be shared with teachers. The purpose of the adjustment to the report card format is to describe the distance learning experience and provide more meaningful feedback in each of the content areas.

It was reported that parents were seeking feedback and the narrative would be welcomed compared to the typical grade reporting, given the year end assessments were not given.

Ms. Underwood asked how some of the fall courses might accommodate any gaps in instruction. Discussion of the state of planning for fall courses ensued. There are many unknowns still at this time.

3. *Infinite Campus Update*

Mr. Collins reported that there were some delays in the roll out schedule for Infinite Campus, but much of the work is still on track. He noted that there is a custom build from Infinite campus to adapt to existing use of data in the middle school gradebook.

4. *Elementary Health Update*

Mr. Hendrickson provided an update on the Elementary Health curriculum and the need to integrate information on Vaping. There were some key aspects that might be done through whole school assemblies or PE activities. The concept of redirecting the PE instruction to 2 schools and handling the key content (masks, temperature, hand washing) through normal classroom instruction was

described. Mr. Verderame added the intent is to address more of the health skills instruction through classroom activities, early in the return to schools.

5. *Summer PD Update*

Distance learning technologies have been added to the science curriculum and social-emotional supports, as priorities for teacher summer PD. Ms Underwood asked for flexibility in teacher PD to enable the system to address a wide range of issues surrounding school reopening. Ms. Picard-Wambolt also asked if there were plans for closing the school for the summer and enabling closure to the school year.

6. *EDUinnovate Update*

The Spring grant proposal schedule has been deferred. There is not an adjusted schedule at this time.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm.

1st. M. Underwood

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Young

Curriculum Committee, Chair