

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Weston, CT

Meeting Date: December 16, 2019

Information Only

Action Requested

Agenda Item Subject: November Curriculum Committee Minutes

Submitted by: Kenneth Craw

Document Summary/Purpose and/or Recommended Action:

November 2019 Curriculum Committee Minutes for Board Review

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<https://meeting.cabe.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=47&AgencyTypeID=1>

Curriculum Committee Meeting

November 13, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Central Office Conference Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present Committee Members:

Taffy Miller (Chairperson), Anthony Pesco

Present Administration:

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent; Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of C&I; Michael Rizzo, Assistant Superintendent of PPS; Lisa Wolak, WHS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Matthew Filip, WHS Assistant Principal

Members of the Public:

Gina Albert, Hillary Koyner, Ruby Hedge, Doug Ronai, Rajan Sekeran

2. WHS Course Enrollment Report for 2019-20

Discussion:

- Mr. Filip reviewed with the Committee his report on course enrollment, which examines the process of providing a diverse program of studies while maximizing staffing efficiency.
- The report describes the scheduling process, the determination of how many sections of a course to run, when it is appropriate to run a smaller section, when to not run a course, and some the creative steps taken to remedy these situations.

3. NGSS Science Results for Grades 5, 8 and 11

Discussion:

- This past spring the first NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) assessment was given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.
- The new science standards represented a big change to the previous CT standards. With meticulous planning over a three-year period, Weston schools have fully implemented NGSS into the curriculum.
- Weston's performance on these assessments was strong and will serve as a baseline for the coming years. DRG results have not yet been released by the CSDE

4. Information on the Concept of Universal Pre-school

Discussion:

- Mr. Rizzo gave a brief overview of the costs and considerations of offering Universal Preschool—that is pre-school for all Weston residents ages 3 and 4 at no cost to the parents.
- In current years, almost all students entering Kindergarten have attended private preschool. If Weston were to offer the universal program at the current population projection, it would need nine classrooms with an estimated staffing figure of \$150k per classroom.
- Besides staffing, other considerations involve program accreditation, transportation and environmental issues—such as heights of sinks and toilets, door exits, etc.
- Ms. Miller inquired if there is an existing program that offers pre-school scholarships for low income students. Mr. Rizzo agreed to speak to the Town about low income needs.

5. K-5 Math CIL Restructuring

Discussion:

- Dr. Craw outlined his proposal for restructuring the CIL support for K-5 math.
- With our current structure, there is one CIL who coaches approximately 50 teachers in math and science in two buildings for grades K-5.
- The administration has determined that having CIL support for elementary school math is especially important for differentiation in the classroom.
- The proposed restructuring would add a new .4 FTE CIL for K-2 math.
- The current CIL for K-5 math and science, Mrs. Vinton, would continue to support math in grades 3-5 as well as science for grades K-5.

6. Approval of October 2019 Minutes

Motion Passed: passed with a motion by Anthony Pesco and a second by Taffy Miller.
2 Yeas - 0 Nays.

7. Other curricular issues

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent