

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 29, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Long Hill Auditorium

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction- The meeting was called to order at 8:34.

Committee Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair
J.McNamee, BOE Member
L.Nuland, BOE Member
S.Iwanicki, Ed.D, administrative designee

Other Members Present

J.Norcel, BOE Vice-Chair

II. Public Comment- No public comment was received. However, parent Briana Ashiotes from Tashua Elementary School joined to hear more about the K-3 ELA Curriculum Guide updates.

III. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting June 15, 2023 and Regular Meeting September 21, 2023
Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the Regular Meeting June 15, 2023 and Regular Meeting September 21, 2023. Mrs. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

a. Mrs. Petitti motioned to amend the agenda to add the NEASC Survey for review by the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Curriculum Guide Update- English Language Arts & Literacy, Grade K, 1, 2, 3** – Trumbull Public Schools K-5 ELA Program Leader, Kate Engeldrum, shared that this summer teachers began the curriculum writing process by honoring the expertise that the educators in Trumbull bring to the student success in Trumbull. *Shifting the Balance* was a component of the process in considering the components of the Science of Reading. Teachers considered each shift. Additionally, the team used the Reading League’s Curriculum Evaluation Tool to have side-by-side comparison in evaluating the curriculum guides for revision. The district Curriculum Guide Equity Reflection Rubric was also used to review the units and revise if needed. Mrs. Norcel mentioned that the teachers would benefit from seeing the rubric that were not on the committee. Dr. Iwanicki shared that each curriculum group uses the rubric as the guides are updated, primarily in the Humanities. It is still in being piloted. Ms. McNamee and Mrs. Nuland added the importance of cultural understanding. Mrs. Engeldrum continued to explain the shifts and Ms. McNamee asked about the minutes of instruction dedicated to ELA. It was shared that Trumbull follows state guidelines. Kindergarten teacher, Mandy Cook, explained that in Kindergarten the

first half of the year focuses on phonics and phonemic awareness. Ms. McNamee asked if they were still following the workshop model. Mrs. Cook further explained that this curriculum streamlines workshop from what is was to what it needs to be for students and is aligned with the Science of Reading. She provided examples such as the Super Powers Unit in which the picture component was removed to emphasize the sound. Ms. McNamee shared her concerns about preserving some of the solid work that had been done in the units in past and it was confirmed that these are updated versions of the units. Mrs. Nuland asked about the difference between phonics and phonemic awareness and Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Engeldrum clarified them. Third grade teacher Mrs. Jessica Preman shared that students have been richly engaged in reading and that this updated curriculum includes resources such as Building Vocabulary and specific lessons to address morphology, to build understanding and strengthen skills to decode multisyllabic words. Vocabulary has been added back into the units for teachers as well. Mrs. Norcel shared that some of the components had been removed with the introduction of Calkins and she is glad to see them being added back. Mrs. McNamee asked about the COVID impact on Grade 3. Mrs. Preman shared that in Trumbull we are very lucky in that we did not experience as much “loss” and that our students were resilient throughout the process. Mrs. Norcel asked about if we still teach cursive and it was shared we use the Wilson method of cursive beginning in Grade 3. Mrs. Cook added that the Vision of the Graduate was also integrated along with the 5 pillars of reading. Mrs. Petitti shared that she has fought to keep the curriculum writing in the budget and this ELA revision work reflects the effective work that happens in Trumbull in this regard. Ms. McNamee asked about if the workshop model Calkins assessments were being used for students. It was shared that the units never had assessments and that we are using DIBELS with the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark assessment. The ELA team is also researching to ensure we have the most efficient and effective measures moving forward. Ms. McNamee motioned to accept the changes and move the English Language Arts & Literacy Curriculum Guides for Grade K, 1, 2, 3 to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **K-3 ELA- New Text Approvals:** Mrs. Engeldrum shared the rationale for each of the new texts. She began with Sateren’s *My Teacher is an Idiom* in Grade 2. Mrs. Norcel shared that the text *Indian Shoes* really resonated with her in that the chapters were interwoven as well as being the text being written from the perspective of another background. *Katie Woo & Pedro Mysteries* also exposes students to another background, can be used as a new mentor text offering, and is a part of a series teachers could opt to read further. Ms. McNamee motioned to accept the changes and move the texts as presented to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Curriculum Guide Update- Mathematics, Grade 2, 3, 4, 5** Mrs. Petitti and Mrs. Norcel were able to observe some of the curriculum writing in the process this summer. They reviewed the math guides and found the changes very well done. K-5 Math Program Leader, Kim Lombardi, and teachers Selena Conklin and Maura Palermo presented the units. Several resources were kept in mind to revise the new use of Eureka Squared-- a teacher survey with feedback about the pilot of each of the units, the Vision of the Graduate, equitable access opportunities, and data outcomes within the district. They found that extra resources were needed within the units and those were built in as a toolbox that teachers could use. They did this work with a laser focus on pacing and how much could be accomplished. Extension and summer resources such as Khan Academy were also considered. Mrs. Conklin shared that she tried it with her second-grade son as a tool to reinforce concepts over the summer. Mrs. Nuland shared that Khan Academy has been updated and is very beneficial for differentiation. Mrs. Petitti asked which math concepts teachers felt students were lacking. Mrs. Conklin shared that there was a back slide in fluency,

but it varies by student. As teachers notice gaps, they may provide review lessons, for example in place value. Dr. Iwanicki shared that academic vocabulary has been integrated into the units. Mrs. Conklin added that each teacher received a packet of vocabulary for word walls that they can use. Ms. McNamee asked about formative assessments. Mrs. Palermo shared that they use exit tickets that can be used to measure student knowledge and have different forms (Form A and Form B,) for example. They also have topic quizzes and end of unit assessments at their disposal. Teachers do not need to use them all depending on student mastery. Ms. McNamee asked about differentiation. Mrs. Palermo shared that differentiation is built into the launch and learn components of the lessons which teachers are finding effective. Ms. McNamee motioned to move the guides. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

e. **TPAUD Survey-** Mrs. McGarry and the TPAUD team presented regarding the survey proposed to give students this year. It was shared that the surveys started being administered in Trumbull in 1996. TPAUD's current grant requires a student survey every two years which means that this year, another administration must be given. The survey aims to check how TPAUD has done in education and outreach as well as identify areas of future work. Nina Chanana, a local evaluator funded through the DFC grant, was also present to answer and questions. She shared that the survey is aligned with other surveys in the region such as Fairfield, Darien and Greenwich which allows us to have some local and regional comparison data. The data can then be shared with other non-profit and support organizations. Ms. McNamee shared she is very interested in viewing the data, especially given the legalization. She also noted a grammatic error that should be shifted and it was shared that the question is one of the required questions. Ms. Chanana will reach out to the national evaluators regarding the error. This year the survey will be given electronically and is less than 15 minutes. Parents are sent notification in advance of when the survey will be administered and district policy does allow for families to contact the school and/or district to refrain from participation. Mrs. Petitti and Mrs. Nuland inquired about fentanyl use. It was shared that while the survey data does not indicate the use of counterfeit medication right now, but we will continue to monitor the data. Mrs. Petitti asked of the questions regarding bullying were included. TPAUD shared that due to new state definitions they have kept the questions focused on the topics that directly inform their work on education and prevention. The TPS Safe School Climate Committee addresses topics related to bullying. After review of the survey, Ms. McNamee motioned to move the survey to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

f. **NEASC Survey-** Dr. Iwanicki shared that Trumbull High School must use the NEASC survey to maintain their status with the organization. The questions may not be altered or changed. With that in mind, Ms. McNamee motioned to move the survey to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. **Future Meeting Dates-** The committee discussed that the next meeting conflicts with other regional meetings. The next meeting will be canceled, making the next Curriculum Committee meeting November 30th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03am.