

The New London Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting was held virtually via Zoom on February 6, 2024.

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1. Call to Order

Mr. Caron, Acting Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Bianca Alexis-Sylvain – Committee Member
Nathan Caron – Committee Member

Absent for the Committee: Danni Cruz – Committee Chair

Present for the Administration: Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti – Assistant Superintendent

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2023 Curriculum Committee Meeting

Motion by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

Motion carried, 2-0

4. Curriculum Updates

a. Update on International Education Pathway

Dr. Hills-Papetti shared that there will be a tour this upcoming Thursday. There has been the idea to re-vamp the traditional idea of a tour, and make it an event with three countries represented and food. This will be an interactive event with a scavenger hunt throughout the building. She also noted that for the middle grades, Model U.N. will begin next year, and if possible, adding mock trials as well.

b. Update on Curriculum Audit

Dr. Hills-Papetti stated that the audit is ongoing. There were some gaps found with the ESOL curriculum, so staff have been hired to work on that portion. Additionally, a gap has been found within the science curriculum. The district was using Catalyst Science, but there has been a shift from CREC and it is not being offered next year, so there will need to be something new pursued in that area. Another lift in the work will be regarding social studies, and that will be done in line with a new draft of social studies standards. She further clarified that when the term gap is used, it could mean that the scope and sequence and standards are aligned, but that there is a review needed to ensure that all primary standards that students need are included.

c. Update on Career-Focused Programming

It was shared that there have been meetings with Veolia and State Legislator Bumgardener to look into bringing in a waste management/water treatment program to New London. If this were to happen, New London would host the first public high school to have the program. Veolia is excited about the opportunity, as is the District, and there is a hope that it could happen in the next year.

The District continues to look into opportunities for cosmetology class offerings. At this point it is taking a deeper dive into the logistical pieces to offer this.

The high school would like to be able to offer CNA courses, but the cost is \$2,000 per student. While this is an amazing program, the cost is not sustainable in the long run. The District continues to look into alternatives to support this program financially. Mr. Caron asked if there have been any discussions about partnerships for sponsoring the program. Ms. Francolino stated that the District works closely with Valerie Tamano and the New London Education Foundation, so reaching out to them may be a possibility. Ms. Alexis-Sylvain shared her support of the potential of this program.

d. Update on EdRising

Dr. Hills-Papetti shared that there will be a field trip in March. The course was offered this semester, but only one student registered so it was not held. There are five students who consistently attend the program after school. The EdRising group ran a book drive and raised 56 books which will be donated to the elementary schools in district.

e. Update on Course Catalog

Dr. Hills-Papetti shared that the final touches are being put onto the catalog for next year. The updated version provides revised course descriptions, updated TCS codes and course names. Ms. McGuire, Assistant Director of Mental Health has played a key role in this process by working with the counselors to revise the catalog.

5. Discussion of Policy 6145.6 – Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain to:

- In number 1: Strike “no credits will be accepted” through “(2 credits)”
- Amend number 2 to state: “The transcript will be evaluated in terms of credit to be granted by the high school principal or their designee. The decision of the high school principal in such cases shall be final.”

Motion carried, 2-0

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to recommend Policy 6145.6 as amended to the Full Board.

Motion carried, 2-0

6. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 2-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services