

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
October 15, 2024
Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Board members Melissa Finnigan, Maureen Sattan (via Zoom), Gianna Rossi, Debra Dudack, Superintendent Matt Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Principal Anthony Hibbert and Laura LaFlamme

Call to Order at 8:30am

Discussion of Agriscience Program at Suffield High School:

Director of the Program, Laura LaFlamme presented the committee with an overview of the Agriscience Program.

She provided information in regards to Admissions and what the application process looks like for both the Suffield and Out of Town students.

She provided historical data on the number of students in the program which has grown substantially in the last few years. We currently have 166 students enrolled in the program supporting Suffield and 11 surrounding towns. As of 24/25 43% of the students are Suffield students.

She reviewed retention percentages over the years with some of the enrollment drops after 9th grade being Suffield students who wish to take different courses in high school from the Agriscience curriculum.

There are currently 4 FTE's teaching the Agriscience courses with the Director being a .5 FTE as a teacher and .5 FTE as a Director. We also discussed being able to have some of the electives being taken by the students outside of the program. At this time Agriscience students get the priority. There is a cap of 15 students in the class and any open spots are being provided to the general education students.

We discussed the ASTE (Agriculture Science and Technology Education) grant. These funds need to be spent solely on Agriscience program initiatives and these purchases and programs are reviewed by the state every 5 years to ensure legislative compliance.

She spoke of how they are ensuring that the 31 students on an IEP and the 27 students on a 504 are being monitored and supported by their Special Education Teacher Liaison and how they are working to incorporate math and ELA skills in all of their academic courses.

She explained that for compliance they are working hard to be a 3 circle program which takes into consideration Classroom Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience and FFA Leadership. This lead to a discussion for the possibility of an FTE that would be used for programs and internships outside of the school in experiential learning.

The committee asked about shared spaces to ensure a strong CTE program as well at the high school level. Some questions need to be researched in regards to facility use and to the ASTE grant compliance that may hinder this crossover. More follow up needs to be done on this subject.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.