Regional School District 17
Board of Education
Curriculum Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Chair: Kathy Zandi

A meeting of the Regional School District 17 Curriculum Subcommittee was held on September 9, 2025, in the Central Office Board Room.

Subcommittee Members Present: Kathy Zandi, Jennifer Favalora, Lisa Connelly, Suzanne Sack (Remote-joined at 5:45)

Subcommittee Members Absent: Sonja Charpentier

Other Attendees: Curriculum Coordinators Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender

Call to Order/Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Kathy Zandi.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Favalora **MOVED** and Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PDEC Update

Jenn Beermuender and Heather Rigatti shared the various ways the district is working to enable all staff to continuously improve professional practices that result in increased capacity and student achievement:

Mandatory training

Mapped out a 5 year plan based on state legislation; training is approximately 3 hours.

Restorative Practice

State legislation mandates that all schools have restorative practices professional learning to align with the new School Climate Policy. RSD17 has contracted with a trainer, Andy Dousis, to provide all stakeholders with training on a number of topics throughout the school year. Administrators received an overview training in August at the Summer Admin Retreat.

Instructional framework

PDEC began to draft an instructional framework for teachers and administrators that ties together the

RSD17 Instructional Vision, Connecticut Common Core of Teaching Rubric and Marzano elements. This document will ensure that all stakeholders use common language, have common understanding and improve feedback.

Educator Growth and Support Plan

RSD17 is in Year 2 of the new plan focused on educator growth; there have been added sample goals and FAQ responses to survey questions.

Summer Curriculum Updates

Jenn Beermuender and Heather Rigatti shared about the ways RSD17 is ensuring access to college and career-readiness learning opportunities, and increasing college and career readiness to above state average.

AI Guidelines Rollout

Included in school handbooks for students and families; included in employee handbook, shared at staff meetings; shared with community in Superintendent Weekly Update

Overview of Summer Curriculum Projects

- Vocabulary - development across ELA, math and science
- Grades 4 & 5 Social Studies - Reviewed new resources and revised units to align with updated standards.
- K-8 Art teachers - Collaborated to align art curriculum vertically and finalized written art curriculum.
- Math - Algebra and Geometry tasks with supplemental resources and alignment to SAT
- Music - band vertical progression, general music 4-5
- Middle School World Language - Developed end of unit assessments aligned to updated curriculum and HS expectations for the same course.
- Physical Education - Enhanced high school curriculum to align to new national standards.
- Curriculum Council - K-8 math core resource review process began last spring with the district committee. The team drafted a vision, surveyed all teachers K-12 and students 3-12, and is narrowing the list of resources to recommend for budget 2026-27.

New Teacher Orientation

- We welcomed 18 New Teachers to NTO on August 20th and 21st.
- Topics: Technology, HR, curriculum and instruction, Evaluation, PDEC, Marzano Elements
- A survey was sent out for feedback and was positive.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.