TOWN CLERK
SUFFIELD, CT

2026 APR -7 AM 9:16

REC'D BY:

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
March 27, 2026
Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Assistant Superintendent Norbut, Maureen Sattan, Melissa Finnigan, Gianna Rossi, Greg Sparzo, Brian Fry, Justin Kaput

Call to Order at 8:30 a.m.

Presentation and update on Place-Based Education in all schools:
Justin Kaput, the Instructional Coach for Science in K-12 attended the meeting to discuss all of the great curriculum work they are doing in the Place-Based learning arena throughout Suffield schools. Place-based education (PBE) involves the intentional and sustained approach to learning that engages students with the natural and built environments of their local community. It is when you get the students out of the classroom and into new settings such as the outdoors to enhance the learning that is going on in the classroom. His goal this year was to ensure that the learning was incorporated into as many of the lessons for each grade level as possible. In the Elementary schools they are using nature to enhance the learning experience for their current CKLA (ELA) and Math programs. In the Elementary STEM program, some of the topics have been on Dinosaurs, Fossils and Erosion. They are also using it in the Specials classrooms by bringing the kids out into nature and incorporating it into Art and Music. For the Secondary level he has been able to get even deeper into their current Science Units on Ecology and has even enhanced the work they are doing in History. We have been able to partner with Paul Bocko from Antioch University for Professional Learning on place-based education for our staff. The current focus has been on the K-5 Specials Team, the Leadership Team, and a group of secondary educators. The hope is that this work will continue for all of the teachers in the coming years.

The students and staff have also been doing some great work with the Suffield Historical Society in town along with CT Landmarks to utilize primary and secondary sources in the study of History. Through this relationship we will be participating in celebrating the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Students and staff are encouraged to participate through a museum exhibit that will be at the Hatheway Barn, more news to come.

New course proposal Process and Timeline/Textbook Adoption Process and Timeline:
Assistant Superintendent Norbut presented a more formal timeline to the committee that will be distributed to all staff in regards to when courses and textbooks should be requested and vetted through the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. Though we have been following this timeline it is now formalized for all staff. A request was made by the committee to have the high school administration present the courses that are running next year based off of schedule selections as soon as possible to the subcommittee for discussion.

Gianna Rossi left the meeting at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40am.