Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Special Meeting
October 23, 2026
Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Assistant Superintendent Norbut, Maureen Sattan, Melissa Finnigan and Gianna Rossi. Other attendees came for their agenda item as you will see noted below.

Call to Order at 8:30 a.m.

Grade 3-5 Science Curriculum updates:

Additional attendees Justin Kaput and Kris Pryce. Dr. Norbut and Mr. Kaput updated the committee on their progress in finding a suitable grades 3-5 science curriculum. They were able to pilot a unit last year of OpenSciEd with positive results. They also found that it aligns well with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). After speaking with GEMS-Net, a research partner at University of Rhode Island, they felt that this curriculum was the most recommended resource. They also decided that at this time, for 27-28, they would purchase the kits to allow them to do one unit in grades 3, 4 and 5 and in 28-29 they would do one unit in grade 3 and possibly two units in grades 4 and 5. The kits needed have both consumable and non-consumable components. To support one unit of study in grades 3-5, the cost for next year would be $26,000 with a Title IV grant offset of $10,000 as well as a $6,000 professional development cost. They would need to budget for the consumables in each budget going forward. The committee was in favor of the changes and wanted to get updates on the progress going forward and on NGSS scores for Grade 5 as they have not been favorable over the past few years. Justin Kaput and Kris Pryce left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Textbook adoption request for Preschool Heggerty curricular materials:

Dr. Diana Kelley entered the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Norbut and Dr. Kelley updated the committee on a new curricular resource that they would like to purchase for the Preschool. It is a sounds-first approach and supports Phonemic Awareness, a pillar of the Science of Reading. The cost is $636.05, which would likely be a one-time purchase. The committee was in favor of the program. Dr. Kelley left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Planning for 2027-28 Symphonic Band and Discussion regarding Jazz Ensemble schedule:

Anthony Hibbert and Corey Killian entered the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Mr. Hibbert and Mr. Killian explained that the numbers for symphonic band next year are growing, causing them to possibly need 2 sections in the schedule for 27-28. In doing this, they would likely offer the AP and ECE courses that they currently have in Fine Arts every other year for contractual purposes. They all discussed with the committee that Jazz Ensemble is .2 credits and completed outside of the normal day (after school) since there is limited time in the schedule to practice as an ensemble. They wanted us to be aware that they are exploring different scheduling options, as attendance

is challenging for students in other after school programming. They will keep us posted on the final solution and if it requires scheduling changes or credit changes moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.