

Filed subject to approval

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee Special Meeting
(Concurrent with the Redding BOE Curriculum Committee Regular Meeting)

Virtual via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87124685988?pwd=Mnk0WlBtc0NidkpFbi9rc3JKcWxxQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 2468 5988, Passcode: 7M2fzc

March 9, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: S: Pierson Ugol, J. Chieda, G. Goldstein, D. Wible, J. Stinson, S. Kaplan, A. Hauptman, D. Ronen, A. Taylor

Members of the public: 1 member of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Reilly called the meeting of the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: move to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee Special Meeting as submitted. Cheida, Wible. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT:

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SUMMER MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH CURRICULUM REVIEW AND REVISION

Dr. Pierson Ugol described the intent of the middle school math teams (grades 6-8) to use a variety of resources during the next school year. The administration, in collaboration with middle school math leaders, is not recommending a textbook change and there are no plans at this time to change the core text (Connected Math Project 3); rather, Dr. Pierson Ugol wants to make the Easton and Redding curriculum committees aware of how other supplemental resources (such as Illustrative Math and Maneuvering the Middle) will be used along with the core text. All supplemental resources that will be used are aligned with Common Core standards. Utilizing these resources will provide teachers with the flexibility to be purposeful and intentional with lesson design and will support differentiated instruction.

The Easton and Redding middle school math teams will need a greater amount of time for curriculum work during summer 2021 than they typically need, and the Easton and Redding budgets include funds to pay teachers for that work. Together, the group will work to create a new pacing calendar for grades 6-8, teacher-facing documents with unit activities, parent-facing documents with course pacing (to replace what would have once been found in Rubicon Atlas), student-centered “I Can” statements for each unit, and providing clarity around the CT Core standards.

C. Parkin asked if this would be a long term or short term solution, and Dr. Pierson Ugol stated that this is being considered a long term solution. L. Goldstein asked if these resources are strictly digital, and Dr. Pierson Ugol confirmed that the curriculum will include print materials in addition to digital access. M. King asked how adaptive the resources are to different needs, and Dr. Pierson Ugol spoke specifically to the Maneuvering the Middle and its current use as a differentiation and intervention tool. M. King also asked if the summer work would also look at aligning assessments to the new resources. Dr. Pierson Ugol advised that the summer work would primarily focus on aligning the resources between the two school districts and ensuring that pacing is occurring in the same manner, but will include assessment creation and ensuring that item analysis is aligned to the standards.

J. Stinson voiced his support of our educators curating resources in this manner. Dr. Pierson Ugol emphasized that this would not be a change in the *approach* of Easton and Redding mathematical instruction: deep conceptual understanding is still the goal. JRMS Interim Principal P. Amori also spoke in support of this approach. D. Wible agreed, and pointed out that doing this work increases the buy-in of all of our teachers.

J. Chieda pointed out that some students need the “anchor” of a textbook to feel successful and can potentially be overwhelmed by multiple resources. S. Pierson Ugol agreed with that point, and thought it best for the curriculum committees to review the summer work and have an opportunity to see a few sample units to gain a better sense of the curriculum revisions that will be completed by the math teams.

L. Goldstein asked if individual teachers would choose which resources to use for each unit, and Dr. Pierson Ugol clarified that, no, part of the work of creating the pacing calendars will include which resources are appropriate for each unit. C. Parkin asked if budget was not an option, would this approach still be the path forward? Dr. Pierson Ugol responded that she believed that the math specialists would probably ask for more time for professional development together to discuss before being able to answer that question. Annual summer work will be required to continue this resource curation process, and Dr. Pierson Ugol believes that textbook companies will continue to innovate in the future, so a more ideal resource may emerge at some point.

A discussion took place regarding the continued need to fund summer curriculum work going forward, regardless of curriculum choices. M. King asked if there were opportunities for specialists to meet throughout the year to look at common assessments and data points, to discuss best practices, etc. Dr. Pierson Ugol did confirm that the specialists meet several times a year (in a typical year), though in the interest of continuity in this unusual year, those meetings have not been happening as frequently.

Motion: move to approve a revision to the Grade 6-8 math curriculum, incorporating the use of a number of specific resources, in addition to the core text. Chieda, Wible. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT:

C. Baker spoke about being approached by some parents who would like more information about the K-5 textbook change: what the change means and how they will be affected.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: move to adjourn the special meeting of the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee. Wible, Chieda. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Pierson Ugol adjourned the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by,
Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Ed.D.,
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction