

*Filed subject to approval*

Easton and Redding Boards of Education  
Curriculum Committees Special Joint Meeting  
John Read Middle School Community Room  
June 12, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Cindy Shortt, Jenny Chieda, Jeff Parker, Laura Hoeing, Melinda Irwin, Heather Whaley  
Others: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Melinda Irwin called the Redding Board of Education Curriculum Committee to order at 6:36 p.m.

Mr. Jeffrey Parker called the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee to order at 6:37 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Both Board's committees discussed the value of holding joint curriculum committee meetings in the future and combining the committees for the purpose of shared curricula discussions. All agreed in the efficiency and efficacy of shared meetings and discussions.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: OVERVIEW OF K-8 SCIENCE CURRICULUM CHANGES

Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol presented an overview of the science content and instructional process changes with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adoption. She explained the components of 3-dimensional learning that include: science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross-cutting concepts. Handouts were provided to provide additional information about each dimension and specific science curriculum examples were provided. Easton, Redding, and Region 9 school districts have participated in a curriculum writing consortium through a Regional Education Service Center (RESC) in the Hartford area. This consortium includes collaboration with area districts with facilitation by a consultant with a Ph.D. in science. Formal Connecticut State testing in science will begin in 2019 in grades 5, 8, and 11.

Curriculum committee members asked about the adequacy of professional learning for teachers given the significant change in science curriculum. Dr. Pierson Ugol explained the work with the consortium and in-district consulting and summer work in previous years. She stressed the importance of providing teachers with professional learning time with an expert in the field, both through consortium work and within the district through demonstration lessons and debriefing or lesson study. There was some discussion regarding cuts in the 2018-2019 district budgets and the need for professional learning moving forward. One committee member asked about the research base and writing process of the NGSS and Dr. Pierson Ugol shared that the National Research Council's had a significant role in the process and said she would provide more information at a future meeting.

Mr. Parker asked that the science curriculum be made public in the near future. Dr. Pierson Ugol replied that she would review the curriculum documents within the Atlas curriculum mapping database and aim for a public release in the fall of 2018.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SECOND STEP CURRICULUM RESOURCE - MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CLASSES

Dr. Pierson Ugol provided the curriculum committee members with a scope and sequence of the grade 6-8 Second Step program resource. She explained that the resource does not replace the existing Health curriculum which is aligned with 2006 CT Healthy and Balanced Living Framework. The program resource supplements what is already in place, providing the teachers with options for adding new lessons and activities to existing units of study. Committee members asked for more specific lesson examples in a follow up curriculum committee meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Melinda Irwin adjourned the Redding Board of Education Curriculum Committee at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Jeffrey Parker adjourned the Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee at 7.27 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction