

Filed subject to approval

Easton Board of Education Curriculum Committee Special Meeting
Redding Board of Education Curriculum Committee Special Meeting
Helen Keller Middle School Library Learning Commons
October 3, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Cindy Shortt, Heather Whaley, Jenny Chieda
(arrived late)

Administrators: Susan Kaplan, Diane Martin

Parent Representatives: Carolyn Baker, Gretchen Goldstein, Amy Hauptman, Jessica Nevins,
Diane Ronen, Allison Taylor

Others: None

CALL TO ORDER

The Easton and Redding Curriculum Committees gathered at 6:30 p.m., but neither Board had a quorum at the start of the meeting to formally call the meetings into session.

The joint non-meeting included the following discussion:

The committees discussed the committee charges. The group stated support for curriculum discussion through joint committee meetings and the opportunity to learn more about the curriculum and alignment between the two districts. Some expressed a concern with the large number of parents needed, especially in Easton, but neither group asked for a future meeting to take action regarding revision of either district's committee charge. A future meeting will include nominations for committee chairs.

Dr. Pierson Ugol provided a handout regarding the research base for Next Generation Science Standards and the multi-year process of standards review within ER9. Grades K-8 will implement revised units/bundles this year and will continue to create assessments through the CREC consortium of participating CT districts. Committee members shared positive feedback regarding revised units and noted deeper engagement of students and relevant topics for exploration. Dr. Pierson Ugol shared a plan to provide a science curriculum update at the end of October via websites and listserv.

The middle school Second Step resource to the Health curriculum presentation provided the group specific lesson examples, as requested at the June joint meeting. The committees discussed the importance of real life scenarios and opportunities for students to practice problem solving strategies in class. The teachers have shared positive feedback with principals and the assistant superintendent regarding the use of this resource at the middle level as it complements

the elementary social and emotional learning scope and sequence and enriches the current curriculum. For more information, see: <https://www.secondstep.org/middle-school-curriculum>

Two new curriculum legislative mandates were discussed: Holocaust and genocide awareness and instruction and opioid use and related disorders. The middle school social studies curriculum will undergo minor revisions in order to include Holocaust and genocide topics in a more formal manner. These revisions will be presented to the joint Boards curriculum committees in June, barring any delay in the curriculum revision work. Opioid use and related disorders are current taught through the Health curriculum at the middle and high school levels. Both middle schools include a presentation by their respective police departments about opioid use as part of the substance abuse prevention unit.

The discussion of curriculum topics and ongoing revisions prompted a longer discussion of the challenges of collaboration across the districts given different schedules and budgetary constraints. The group brainstormed scheduling ideas to enable teachers time to work with their colleagues without disrupting the instructional day unnecessarily. Ultimately, the group concurred that Easton and Redding need additional funding and curriculum coordination for professional learning that supports innovative, dynamic curricula. The group expressed great interest in pursuing this topic at future meetings and through the budget process in both towns.

Discussion of topics for future meetings included: new core arts standards: music and art, budgeting and professional learning to support curricula, social studies curriculum revisions, and the expectations within Common Core State Standards at the early primary level. The committee decided to meet two more times in the 2018-2019 school year, before the January joint Boards of Education meeting and before the June joint Boards of Education meeting. The meetings will ideally rotate town location. Once the Board calendars have been finalized, the joint Board curriculum committee meetings will be set and posted.

ADJOURNMENT:

This joint non-meeting ended at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction