



Newtown Public Schools

BOE C&I Sub Committee Meeting
February 19, 2025

Reed Intermediate School Main Office
Conference Room
3 Trades Lane
Newtown, CT 06470
5:30 PM

As citizens of our community, we will conduct ourselves in accordance with Newtown's Core Character Attributes as displayed in our character tree. We will be responsible for our actions and show respect for each other. We will interact peacefully, productively, and politely. We will be trustworthy and honest and show compassion toward others. Newtown's continued success is contingent upon our ability to persevere, to follow through with our commitments, and to stay focused on the greater good.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Approval of Curriculum & Instruction Minutes of December 10, 2024
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. An overview of dual credit enrollment and an update on the dual credit course offerings for Newtown high school students for the 2025-26 school year
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
5. **ADJOURNMENT**

BOE C&I Sub Committee Meeting
December 10, 2024

BOE Conference Room
Municipal Building
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Frank Purcaro, Assistant Superintendent

Chris Gilson, C&I Chair

John Vouros, Board Member

Sarah Connell, Clerk

No Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Mr. Gilson called the meeting to order at 11:01 am.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Vouros moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024. Mr. Gilson seconded.
Motion passes unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Purcaro presented his powerpoint of his "Assistant Superintendent Entry Plan" to the committee. He focused on his goals within the first 30 days of hire.
- b. He began his presentation by outlining his plan to meet with each Principal and building those relationships even more. He told the committee that he had a meeting with Dr. Longobucco that day and will continue to have weekly meetings to accomplish their goals.
- c. As the previous Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr. Purcaro is familiar with the Learning Walks and stated that he was excited to continue them with Ms. DiBartolo.
 - i. Mr. Vouros asked what the process was for the Learning Walks and if they were meaningful.
 - ii. Mr. Purcaro answered that they are instructional look-fors and he believed they are incredibly beneficial. The District plans on doing 200 classroom visits a year and with each of those visits, it will paint a picture of where there are areas of need and areas of success throughout the District. He has already been to three learning walks since his start and he believes they are going very well.
 - iii. Mr. Purcaro added that the learning walks are not meant to be part of the teacher evaluations.
- d. Mr. Purcaro continued with his presentation by outlining his plan to jump into the budget process with the Superintendent and Director of Teaching and Learning.
 - i. Mr. Gilson asked if he had any data that would help him provide information for the budget.
 - ii. Mr. Purcaro answered that he needs more time to get data to bring to the committee.

- iii. Mr. Gilson stated that it can be difficult for the full Board to understand the full scope of the curriculum so if there is any data that the committee can do to help bring the message, he is willing to do that. He believes transparency is key in getting curriculum approved.
- iv. Mr. Purcaro said that one of his goals is to establish a data team in each school to identify areas of weakness and areas of strength.
- e. Curriculum approval process will continue the same as last year. Mr. Purcaro will reach out to the teachers to see the status of their revised curriculum.
- f. Professional development will also be a huge area of focus for Mr. Purcaro this year. He believes that having experts providing training to the teachers will be a huge part in Newtown's success. EdAdvance has been a valued resource for Newtown and we will continue the relationship with them.
- g. Mr. Purcaro continued by saying that bringing in professional trainers at the school, during the school day, will set the teachers, and ultimately, the students up for success. The goal will be for the leadership to be trained so they can facilitate the PD as well.
- h. Lastly, Mr. Purcaro and the committee spoke about the advances with AI and how the District needs to be prepared for the future. Mr. Purcaro is planning on providing guidance on AI through PD. It is time to educate the teachers that AI can be beneficial to teaching and learning. AI can also help with curriculum writing.

Mr. Purcaro presented the schedule for 2025 C & I meetings.

Mr. Vouros moved to approve the schedule for 2025-2026 C & I Meetings. Mr. Gilson seconded.

Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Gilson asked to create an "Action Item" list so the committee can stay on top of different tasks.

The Action Items from this meeting are:

- Update on data teams at schools
- Continue to update on PD implementation
- Update on tentative curriculum (slide 5 of presentation)
- Update on teacher evaluations and support systems
- Portrait of Graduate
- Training for Administrators
- Staff Training on AI

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Public Participation

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Mr. Gilson adjourned this meeting at 12:15 pm.

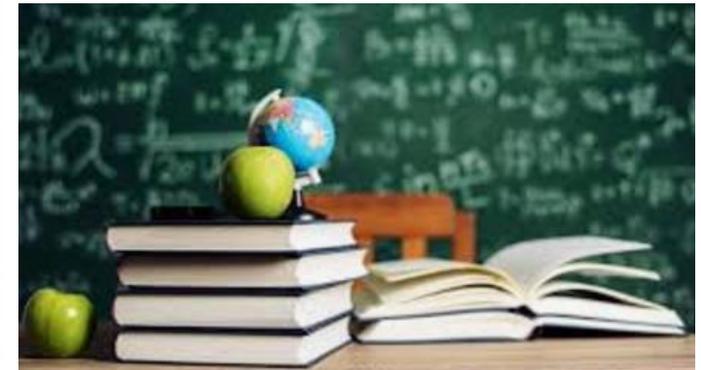
Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Connell



Curriculum and Instruction

Board Sub-Committee Meeting

December 10, 2024



Agenda

- Assistant Superintendent Entry Planning.
- Curriculum for approval by the end of June 2025.
- Curriculum scheduled after July 1, 2025.
- Professional Development proposal for 2025-26
- Future C&I meeting dates and times.



Assistant Superintendent Entry Planning

- **First 30 Days – Visit and Listen:**
 - Visit with each of the building principals.
 - Open availability for teaching staff in each of the schools for discussion/questions.
 - Engage in the learning walk process – classroom visits in each of the schools to monitor instructional practices in the schools.



Assistant Superintendent Entry Planning

- **First 30 Days – Visit and Listen:**
 - Budget development – setting instructional priorities for next school year.
 - Work with Director of Teaching and Learning – current professional learning opportunities for staff.
 - Assist the Superintendent in whatever capacity needed.

Curriculum Approvals 2024-25

- NMS Science Grades 7 & 8
- NMS Art Grades 7 and 8
- NHS Math Differential Equations
- NHS/NMS Spanish I
- NHS Biotechnology/Forensics
- NHS Applied Science Research
- NHS Asian Studies
- NHS AP Psychology
- NHS Public Speaking



Curriculum Revision 2025-26

- RIS Computer Integration
- NMS Social Studies Grades 7 and 8
- NHS French
- NHS Philosophy
- NHS Middle Eastern Studies
- NHS Environmental Science
- NHS Public Health
- NHS Meteorology
- NHS Acting I
- NHS CP and Honors Anatomy and Physiology



Professional Development Proposal

- **A shift in focus from resources allocation to instructional improvement, working closely with embedded coaching from EdAdvance.**
 - Inquiry-based instructional strategies for the social studies classrooms. RIS, NMS, NHS
 - Increase student engagement, rigor, and collaboration in the math classrooms. RIS, NMS, NHS
 - Increase problem-solving skills in the science classrooms. RIS, NMS, NHS
 - Continued working with strategies that support Bridges Math, Imagine Learning Reading, and Foundations Reading at the Elementary Schools.



Professional Development Proposal

RIS
6th Grade
Focus



Newtown Middle School		
Social Studies	New resource adoption in 2024/25	Inquiry-based instructional strategies to implement the new resource.
Math	Adoption of Into Math in 2022	Building Thinking Classrooms for engaging math instruction.
Science	Adoption of Discovery Science Tech Book in 2022	Strategies for implementing inquiry-based NGSS instruction.
Newtown Elementary Schools		
Reading	Adoption of Imagine Learning in 2023-24	Continued professional learning to support implementation
Math	Adoption of Bridges Math in 2021-22	Continued professional learning to support updates to the program.



NHS
9th Grade
Focus



RIS
5th Grade
Focus

Links to the Newtown PS Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority 1:

Ensure Stimulating, Engaging, and Challenging Learning Opportunities Tailored to the Individual Needs of Students



Increase opportunities for inquiry-based and student-centered learning that promotes curiosity and student engagement

Professional Development Proposal

- **Build the capacity of our own staff** to continue the embedded coaching work.
- Full implementation of the **NHS Portrait of the Graduate** – Embedding the seven characteristics into curriculum and instruction.
- **Train-the-trainer** model for implementation of the new **Teacher Evaluation and Support System**.
- **Training for administrators** on providing high quality feedback for instructional improvement.
- Staff training on the use of **AI**.



Curriculum & Instruction Meeting Dates

Second BOE meeting of each month 5:30-7:00pm

2024-25

- February 19th, (Wednesday RIS)
- March 18th
- April 22nd
- May 20th

2025-26

- September 16th
- October 21st
- November 18th
- December 16th





Questions/Comments

