

# Cheshire Public Schools



## Board of Education Curriculum Committee

**Monday, September 9, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

### **Humiston Board Room**

#### Minutes

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	Ms. Anne Marie Cullinan (Chair) and Dr. Anne Harrigan
<u>Cheshire Public Schools Staff Present:</u>	Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Hanlon, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Dr. Mary Gadd, CHS Principal; Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Principal - CHS; Tim Galvin, Social Studies Department Chair - CHS;
<u>Community Members Present:</u>	None

#### **1. Public Comment**

No public comment in-person or via email.

#### **2. Review Minutes of June 10, 2024 Meeting**

*Dr. Harrigan made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2024, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to approve the June 10, 2024 minutes. The motion passed.*

#### **3. Informational Items**

- a. Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) Overview
  - Outline of the Process

Marlene Silano presented an overview of the Cheshire Curriculum Council (CCC) process including how that process leads to textbook adoption. Every administrator is paired with curricular teacher leaders for a content area to conduct a five-year full curriculum review. During the review, the committee considers standards, text resources, technology resources, instructional strategies, assessment, and professional development. Specific to questions

from the BOE subcommittee on Social Studies, Tim Galvin provided an overview of updates to US History with the adoption of new state Social Studies standards. It was noted that Social Studies will begin their five-year self-study this school year for the final presentation in the spring of 2026.

**b. Connecticut State Testing Results**

Marlene Silano shared Cheshire's state testing results including the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA: grades 3-8), Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS: grades 5, 8, and 11), and the Scholastic Aptitude Test - School Day (SAT: grade 11). The conclusions to the results indicate overall health of student performance in the district. Grades 3-8 show consistent achievement on SBA including the highlights of having 60% of students above goal in grade 6 math and having the 9th overall highest achievement in Connecticut. There has also been a consistent increase in NGSS achievement. Plans developed through the Cheshire Curriculum Council process led to improved success in ELA on the SAT. Those plans made through the curriculum review process this year give us a roadmap to success.

**c. Right to Read Waiver Update**

Marlene Silano updated the committee regarding Cheshire's status and the Right to Read Waiver. Dr. Jeff Solan, Marlene Silano, Kevin Hanlon, and Pat Castle (District Reading Consultant) will be meeting with representatives from the Connecticut State Department of Education on September 18th, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to get feedback from the state on where the district's current curriculum aligns with the state's definition of the Science of Reading and where it still needs to be updated to align with state expectations.

**d. Curriculum Writing Institute (CWI) Update**

Marlene Silano shared highlights of this year's Curriculum Writing Institute (CWI) at last week's full Board of Education Meeting. Those included that over 100 teachers participated in the week-long institute that was primarily facilitated by Marlene Silano and Kevin Hanlon. Additionally, professional development was provided by consultant Elba Llantín-Cruz on Culturally Responsive Curriculum. In addition to those highlights, Kevin Hanlon added that the outcomes of this year's institute included tighter alignment of the end-of-unit assessments to the intended essential learning outcomes and a higher number of embedded scaffolds for students into the unit design.

**e. Out-of-State Overnight Field Trips**

- [Florida Keys - Cheshire High School - February 12-18, 2025](#)
- [Derryfield Park, Manchester, NH - Cheshire High School - November 8-11, 2024](#)

Dr. Maureen Reed shared details of two out-of-state overnight field trips for Cheshire High School students this school year. The first is in anticipation of athletes qualifying for the Boys and Girls Cross Country New England Championships which take place at Derryfield Park in Manchester, New Hampshire from November 8-10.

The second is a STEM-focused trip to the Florida Keys through Destinations Unlimited. Stops and events will include the Florida Aquarium, the Museum of Science & Industry, Babcock Ranch, Edison Ford Winter Estate, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the Museum of Science & Discovery, and participating in a beach clean-up project.

**4. Adjourn**

*Dr. Harrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cullinan seconded the motion. Ms. Cullinan and Dr. Harrigan voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin J. Hanlon*

Kevin J. Hanlon  
K-8 Curriculum Coordinator