

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 12, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michael Lyons, Chair; Sherelle Harris, Shirley Mosby,  
Micheal Barbis

**OTHERS:** Brian Meek, BOE Member; Bruce Mellion, NFT President, Tony  
Daddona, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Talli Negroni,  
Priority Schools; Suzanne Brown-Koroshetz, BMHS Principal;  
Reginald Roberts, Nwlk HS Principal, Ed Singleton, Barbara  
Wood, Raymond Manka

**CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**UPDATE ON NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS)**

A staff member came forward to narrate a PowerPoint presentation on the NGSS.

Mr. Lyons asked if the teachers were aware of the NGSS. Speaker said that she was working on introducing these standards to the teachers. Once the District is moving in this direction, it will be easier to integrate these standards into curriculum

The Committee was then requested to fill out an online survey of the presentation. The presenter said that she would keep the district informed on future developments.

**UPDATE ON HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING.**

Mr. Singleton, Ms. Wood and Mr. Manka came forward. Mr. Singleton said that the group had come together to review schedules that other Districts use. One schedule had four block schedules with a lunch period. Brookfield, New Milford, ATI and they had planned to get to Hamden, but were unable to do so. Fairfield has just experienced a few practice days. The group will follow up with them regarding how well it worked.

Copies of a PowerPoint presentation were then distributed to those present.

Mr. Barbis asked about starting later and having a longer day. Mr. Singleton explained that they had focused on schools with similar block scheduling. Mr. Singleton then said that the two high schools had not been on the same schedule from some time. The four block schedule would have 80 minute instructional blocks.

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Mr. Daddona said that the feed back from recent graduates was that the college classes were much longer. Mr. Lyons said that the schedule sounded much more like college.

Ms. Wood asked the students if it felt like homework. The students and teachers both said that it seemed like the same amount of instruction. It also seemed calmer because there were fewer pass times. Discussion followed.

Mr. Daddona said that there would need to be a transition year. BMHS will be having their New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) review in 2016. The two high schools need to start the new schedule at the same time.

There will be fewer study halls, Ms. Wood said. This will also allow for more flexibility. There will need to be professional development for the staff because the teachers need to plan their instruction differently.

Mr. Lyons asked for further details about the Professional Development aspect. Mr. Daddona said that there would have to be a professional brought in and then the staff would most likely have to go to visit other schools to see it in action. He added that the science labs would be in one block.

The block schedule that would seem the most applicable would be the A/B schedule, which would have the A block on every other Monday.

Mr. Daddona said that the high school graduation credits would have to be changed. A discussion followed about the scheduling of the credits.

A question was asked about the middle school schedule. Mr. Singleton said that there have been discussion about the schedule and the group will be visiting a near by middle school in early June.

Ms. Negroni pointed out that the teachers will need to plan carefully because it is not just doubling the time. Ms. Mosby asked about the students who have ADHD or other Special Education needs. Ms. Brown-Korshetz said that in visiting those classrooms, the students are much more engaged with the activities. Ms. Mosby asked about the special education students have 504 plans and IEPs, so the strategies are implemented into the course. Ms. Mosby said that she would like to see more because she would not want a child struggling with an 83 minute class. The transition from 8th grade to 9th grade is hard enough, so she would like to see more on the transition. Mr. Daddona explained that currently the District has a double period class called "Intensified Math for the Algebra I students who are struggling. There is an double period for English 1 students, which is 90 minutes. They still have the IEDs and PPTs. The students are being successful and moving onto Geometry and English 2. Mr. Manka said that the flex periods could be used for the extra help. Mr. Roberts agreed and said that the flex period

could be utilized for the delivery of special services such as speech rather than pulling the students out of a class.

Mr. Barbis said that this was a win/win situation.

Mr. Mellion said that it would be very important to have the Professional Development. The teachers need to learn how to use the time effectively. Having the correct people to come in to provide PD will be important.

Mr. Lyons asked Mr. Manka about which company would be good to deliver the training. Mr. Manka said that he was in the process of contacting a company that had been recommended to him from the New Milford High School.

**\*\* MS. HARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK SCHEDULING.**

**\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (LYONS, BARBIS, AND HARRIS) AND ONE ABSTENTION (MOSBY).**

#### **APPROVAL OF NEW CURRICULAR MATERIALS.**

##### **A) World Language Curricular Materials**

- (i) French 1, 2, 2H – D’Accord**
- (ii) Italian 1, 2, 2H – Ciao**
- (iii) Spanish 1, 2, 2H – Desubre**

##### **B) Social Studies Curricular Materials**

- (i) Civics – Magruder’s – American Government**
- (ii) US History – Prentice Hall – Reconstruction to the Present**
- (iii) AP US History – American Pageant**
- (iv) World History – Pearson – The Modern Era**

Mr. Lyons said that Ms. Negroni had provided the Committee with the information that the Committee had requested. Ms. Negroni said that the staff was planning on having PD on how to use the sites and then move into more advanced techniques. She said that she had spoken to the providers about providing the teachers with a monthly update report in terms of what to look for.

**\*\* MS. HARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRICULAR MATERIALS AS OUTLINED IN THE AGENDA.**

**\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Lyons said that State Law requires him to post these items on an agenda without a vote and then again a second time with a vote.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

**\*\* MS. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* MR. BARBIS SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services.