

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 29, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Artie Kassimis, Chair; Dr. Yvel Crevecoeur.

STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Deputy Superintendent;  
Curriculum/Instruction Site Director: Janine Goss.  
Music Curriculum Committee: Chris Rivera, Norwalk High School;  
Ron Secchi, Brien McMahon; Marge Kelley, Fox Run Elementary School.

Call to Order

Mr. Kassimis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and stated that those in attendance were as listed above and there was a quorum present

Music Curriculum

Ms. Marge Kelley presented an overview of the newly developed standards for Arts, Music and Dance. She noted that the actual presentation was detailed and lengthy, and she would have hard copies available for independent review (as attached to minutes as supplemental pages).

Mr. Secchi explained that this has been needed for a long time, and that the last time general music curriculum for high school was updated was 1986. He outlined that it Music has always been performance based, with only three elements of Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. Recent state and national guidelines have driven new core standards based on elements of curriculum based theory, music history and technology.

Ms. Kelley outlined that in 2004 there were updates for elementary school. She referred to the newly developed standards for Arts, Music and Dance. She noted that she is thrilled to be a part of the process to further develop the curriculum and course options for Music. There was discussion of the transition of middle school into high school and it was noted that in the actual presentation there were charts that refer to studies of the core standards that reveal the need for integration of technology and expansion of course offerings.

Dr. Conner reviewed the implementation time table and outlined that the target is 2017-18 school year. He explained that the committee will continue to meet to further develop the curriculum and course options for Music Technology, and Music History and Music Theory. He noted that the district touts Music Programs as one of the key strengths with options for students to participate in the marching band, jazz ensembles, percussion, orchestras and choral groups.

Dr. Conner thanked the Committee for their work and noted this is a great accomplishment and he acknowledged all for their participation in the teaching and learning process in the Norwalk schools.

Norwalk Summer Academy Presentation

Ms. Janine Goss, presented an overview of the Summer Academy presentation and noted that the individual measures assessed, increase scores in reading and measures that indicate progress. She began with an outline of the summer reading, student attendance and actual percentages for the Title I schools. She reviewed the benchmark ranges and before and after achievements, students engaged in summer reading and results of actual books read and availability of books at the public libraries.

There was discussion on the data collection, training, materials, locations, partnerships, field trips, learning opportunities, high school volunteers and roles and responsibilities.

A summary of the feedback is as follows:

...I love science as much as reading! Super excited ..great field guide study.  
It has been a pleasure being a part of this program --wonderful co-workers. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience...great that paraprofessionals had more teaching time  
Feedback from students ...they loved the themed activities--seemed happy to be at school.  
Training days need to include progress monitoring – Science was fun and engaging! We were expecting reading scores to decline but they did not.

Ms. Goss outlined that learning points include plans for book talks sponsored and coordinated by the libraries for 2017-19. She explained that on-going review of the use of libraries is a key element for input by the CISDs, middle school team leaders, and high school department heads. It was noted that a focus on reluctant readers, relevant, engaging titles, and incentives are key elements of library usage and inputs into the curriculum.

A review of the plan for improvement and greater impact is as follows:

- Examine feedback in depth with principals & team
- Plan to extend number of weeks and instructional minutes
- Plan for grades 4 & 5, examine NWEA proposed cut scores
- Strive to create a better balance of instruction and assessment
- Explore supplementary materials
- Establish dates for planning

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* DR. CREVECOEUR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, M. Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services