

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 20, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Artie Kassimis, Chair; Dr. Yvel Crevecoeur, Sherelle Harris (6:00 p.m.);  
Shirley Mosby (6:10 p.m.); Mary Yordon, NFT  
STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Deputy Superintendent;

Call to Order

Mr. Kassimis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and stated that those in attendance were as listed above and there was a quorum present

Approval of Minutes

- \*\* **DR. CREVECOEUR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF  
NOVEMBER 29, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Review “Choose to Live” Program

Mr. Kassimis gave an overview of the program as was presented at the last Board meeting by Police Chief Kulhawik and Deputy Chief of Police Ashley Gonzalez. He spoke about the impact of this program that would be targeted to high school juniors, as young drivers to provide exposure to what to do if pulled over by the police. He reported that he has coordinated a date for the presentation to the three high schools for January 26, 2017. He noted that the next day would be training for the School Resource Officers along with other police officers and staff. There was discussion about including the media with a press release to get coverage of the assemblies and to include the Mayor and community leaders.

Mr. Kassimis explained that he has met with local clergy and community leaders and this program is much welcomed in view of the national climate of police events and the impact on youth and young drivers for improved interaction with police. It was noted that booklets will be distributed to the three classes of Norwalk high school juniors.

Ms. Yordon asked about hand-outs or a website for teacher reference, and Mr. Kassimis noted that there is a U-Tube link for the presentation.

Discussion of Grade 4 Social Studies Textbooks

Dr. Conner presented the NPS K-5 Social Studies Integration Project. Key timeline and summary next steps are included with the project outline as follows:

### **Phase III**

The last phase will continue the expansion of the new tier I resources in Social Studies. District-wide expansion will be in grades one, two, and three during Phase III. At the conclusion of the Social Studies Integration Project (2019-2020 academic year), all K-5 classrooms will have curriculum and resources aligned to the C3 Social Studies Framework and Common Core State Standards (i.e. ELA Curriculum Maps).

#### **Timeline:**

**January 4, 2017:** Meeting to discuss creation and stakeholders of the Social Studies Integrate Project Committee

**January 20, 2017:** Committee charge and timeline discussion with Social Studies Integration Project Committee

**February 2017:** Vendor Fair (vetting of Social Studies tier I resources)

**March 2017- April 2017:** Six-week program evaluation and fourth grade pilot

**April 2017:** Data review of program evaluation and pilot

**April 2017:** Recommendation to Chief Academic Officer

**May 2017:** BoE Curriculum Committee and full board presentation

### **Norwalk Public Schools K-5 Social Studies Integration Project 2017-2020 Standards and Resource Alignment**

The Norwalk Public Schools will be making a recommendation to adopt new tier I resources aligned to the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework in Social Studies. New resources aligned to the C3 Social Studies Framework will begin with fourth grade implementation in the 2017-2018 academic year. In each subsequent year, transition to the new tier I resources will occur in a tiered manner with all other grades. This process of adopting new resource coupled with Social Studies curriculum design will be a three-year project with a completion date of July 2020.

#### **Rationale of NPS K-5 Social Studies Integration Project**

Since 2014, the Connecticut State Department of Education has adopted the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Social Studies Framework. The C3 Social Studies Framework is aligned to the Common Core State Standards with six guiding principles to support the shift in instruction and curriculum design. The six principles highlight:

1. Content that prepares young people for success in college and career.
2. Inquiry at the heart of Social Studies instruction.
3. Content that involves interdisciplinary instruction with the benefits from integrating arts/humanities.
4. Content that is comprised of enduring understandings, concepts, and skills from various disciplines.
5. Social Studies education that has a direct and explicit connection the Common Core State Standards.
6. The C3 Framework informing the process by which states/school districts develop Social Studies Curriculum.

The Norwalk Public Schools current Social Studies tier I resource and curriculum are aligned to the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework of 2007. Moreover, tier I Social Studies resources that is being utilized in K-5 classrooms have not been revised or modified since 2008. With the new adoption of the C3 Social Studies

Framework, coupled with new tier I resources aligned the C3 Framework, Norwalk Public Schools will be engaging in a three-year *Social Studies Integration Project* that consist of redesigning of curriculum and implementing resources aligned to the new standards.

**Phase I**

Starting in January 2017, in partnership with the BoE Curriculum Committee and Norwalk Federation of Teachers, stakeholders of NPS will form an ad-hoc committee to make recommendations for identifying new tier I Social Studies resources for the district. The ad-hoc committee will consist of central office administrators, school administrators, and district fourth grade practitioners. The committee commitments will consist of the following:

1. Participation in a “Vendor Fair” with selected Social Studies tier I resources.
2. Selection of three tier I Social Studies resources to pilot (six-week program evaluation, study, and data collection process).
3. Data corroboration and analysis of piloted resources using three structured rubrics to deepen the program evaluation process.
4. Recommendation of fourth grade tier I Social Studies resources to the Chief Academic Officer (committee recommendation).
5. Presentation to BoE Curriculum Committee and Norwalk Board of Education (May)

Initial implementation of the new tier I Social Studies resource will be in the 2017-2018 academic year (grade four only). District-wide fourth grade practitioners will participate in professional development exercises targeted on building content and standards knowledge to ensure instruction is aligned to the core dimensions in the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework.

**Phase II**

Starting in June 2018, the Norwalk Public Schools will embark in a comprehensive K-5 Curriculum Design Project in Social Studies. The Curriculum Project will be a process grounded by elements from the Rigorous Curriculum Design framework created by Larry Ainsworth. This three-tiered process will consist of:

1. Building the Foundation of the Curriculum
2. Design the Curriculum
3. Development of the Curriculum

The design process will include an intense “Curriculum Institute” with district practitioners as the architects of the district K-5 Social Studies Frameworks. In conjunction with the curriculum design process, a parallel expansion in kindergarten and grade 5 will occur with the adoption of new tier I Social Studies resources.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, M. Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services