

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Artie Kassimis, Chair; Dr. Yvel Crevecoeur, Sherelle Harris; Shirley Mosby

STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Deputy Superintendent
Adam Reynolds, Norwalk High School
Barbara Wood, Brien McMahon High School
Suzanne Koroshetz, Principal, Brien McMahon High School
Diane Filardo, Curricular Testing
Janine Goss, Curriculum
Joe Rios, District School Preparedness Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 17, 2017

**** MS. MOSBY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
** MR. KASSIMIS SECONDED THE MOTION
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. 2017-2018 PROGRAM OF STUDIES PRESENTATION AND PRE-PROCESS
FOR APPROVAL**

Dr. Conner thanked Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Wood as well as the department heads at each high school for looking at the programs of study closely, and addressing the work readiness gap that we are facing nationally.

Mr. Reynolds presented the Program of Studies and said that our current system places too much emphasis on one pathway to success; attending and graduating from a four year college, after completing an academic program in high school, and that the Pathways to Prosperity research has found that only 30% of students successfully complete this pathway. He said that pathways need to be offered to set students up in sequences of courses to allow them to practice the skills necessary in the workplace, and that there are some new innovative ideas and pathways that are

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starting to form now in both high schools, and are continuing to develop over time. Ms. Woods highlighted some of the pathways and said beginning next year at Brien McMahon is the International Baccalaureate program which students will enter in the eleventh grade, and in addition to that will also begin the McMahon Healthcare Academy which will provide students with an opportunity for more hands on learning in the medical field, and is partnered with Norwalk Community College as well as The Norwalk Hospital. She said they are excited about building these pathways, and are continuing to explore the development of other pathways over the next few years.

Mr. Reynolds said that Norwalk High School is in its third year of the NECA program and is a partnership with IBM as well as Norwalk Community College, and the students are now beginning to take college level courses. He discussed project Lead the Way and said it is based on engineering, that it is one of the pathways they continue to build on. He said other pathway is the digital media pathway, and the teachers at Norwalk High School with partner with the professionals in the field, and will work with the professionals to work towards earning certificates. Dr. Crevecoeur asked if the Norwalk Pathways Academy is included in this. Mr. Reynolds said “yes” and that Dr. Allen was part of this process.

Ms. Woods said that graduation requirements will be increased, and that 25 credits will be required to graduate for the class of 2020 and beyond, and she discussed course requirements. She said that there is also a Capstone Project which is a culminating activity which is still in the planning stages, but that the thinking is when a student gets into a pathway; the Capstone Project will be a culmination of the learning in a particular pathway. She said that they have been meeting monthly to try and finalize the Capstone Project.

Mr. Reynolds discussed the elimination of level five courses in some of the key areas, and said that in the core areas the level five courses have been removed to raise the rigor for all students. Ms. Mosby said that since the level five courses are being eliminated asked that if a student is struggling if there will be some type of support? Ms. Woods said “yes” and they have also been in constant contact with their special education colleagues about this change, and there are support services for students outside of the regular class time.

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO BRING THE ITEM TO THE FULL BOARD FOR APPROVAL.**

**** MS. MOSBY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. DISTRICT MOY MAP DATA PRESENTATION

Dr. Conner said in September the Curriculum Committee as well as the Board of Education had adopted and approved the 2016-17 assessment plan, and since then have seen some expediential gains. Mr. Filardo presented the MAP data and said that they are able to gauge on how they are doing against the national norms, and against the requirements for proficiency on the state assessments, and also how they are doing in terms of bringing students to that achievement level

which gives a high probability of being successful in college. She presented a series of graphs and said in most cases particularly at the middle school level many students met or exceeded the projected growth so as this happens the achievement gap with close. Dr. Conner said that there will be a much more in depth comprehensive presentation on March 7, 2017. Dr. Conner said that they are in the top 1% in the context of growth nationally and that is why they received the distinction of being a district of excellence, and tonight will be receiving the distinction of being an innovated district.

Dr. Crevecoeur asked if the actual data for grades three through ten can it be tracked to see who has been in the district, to compare the students who enter after the third grade to compare if those students are benefiting more than the students that enter the system at a later grade. Ms. Filardo said that it would have to be done manually through Power School. Dr. Conner said that they are developing the data warehouse that will be able to track that and are in the initial stages of implementation.

5.SOCIAL STUDIES INTEGRATION PILOT PROCESS UPDATE

Dr. Conner said that due the weather the Social Studies Pilot had to be rescheduled. He provided the updated dates and said that the vendor fair will be held on March 1, 2017, from 4:00PM-6:00PM at Ponus Ridge Middle School, and that the vendor fair review will be held on March 8, 2017 at Rowayton Middle School at 3:30PM. He said that on March 27-May 5, 2017 will be the pilot itself, and three teachers will be piloting three different resources. He said on May 18, 2017, the team will make the final recommendation.

6. MESSAGE FROM U.S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Mr. Rios said that Chief Kulhawik had reached out to him regarding the crisis of opiates and heroine. He said it not only affects the inner-city but also affects suburbia, and that the challenge of the district is how to get the message to our youth. Mr. Kassimis said that they have a great relationship with the Chief of Police and said that may be a vehicle to get socially active topics that are going on into the school system. He said that the District Attorney had reached out to Chief Kulhawik with a video and asked the Chief what the best vehicle is to get it out to all of the students. Mr. Rios said at the recommendation of Mr. Costanzo he has sent the video to the Principals and the School Preparedness Coordinator. There was a discussion on how to get the video out and it was decided that the video will be shown this year for grades 6-12, and will be shown during Health and Physical Education classes, and to later use the DARE program to possibly add a fifth grade class in. Dr. Connors asked that Mr. Castanzo work with the Principals

and also work on getting the Athletic Directors involved from both Norwalk High School and Brien McMahon High School.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services