

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

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

STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Deputy Superintendent;

OTHER: Lt. Terrence Blake, Norwalk Police Department

Call to Order

Mr. Kassimis called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 THE MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2017 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Pathway Academy at Briggs Police Academy

**Program at a Glance:
College & Career Pathways**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Web Developer○ Software Engineering○ IT Consultant○ Computer Programmer○ Coding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade Occupations<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Electrical○ Plumbing○ Automotive Maintenance○ Heating and Cooling○ Construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Careers & Education<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dental Hygienist○ Medical Assistant○ Radiology Technician○ Vet-Tech○ Early Childhood Education○ Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Police○ Fireman○ EMT○ Sanitation

Dr. Conner provided the background on the above curriculum offerings at Pathways Academy and referred to the new Civil Services element of the program.

He explained that there is a recommendation to expand the Police Academy to offer academic based courses to include Law Enforcement, Forensics, and Civics Government.

He introduced Lt. Cunningham who delivered a power point presentation on the program, which takes place over the course of a semester, with investigation portion of the academy spanning six weeks.

He noted that a partnership with the Police Department with a mini-academy type of law enforcement training courses have sparked an interest that can be really engaging for students at Pathways.

**** DR. CREVECOEUR MOVED TO FORWARD ON TO THE FULL BOARD
THE PROPOSED CURRICULUM FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE COURSE
POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY AT BRIGGS PATHWAY ACADEMY.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Copies of press releases were distributed to provide information on community engagement, attached as follows:

NORWALK — Portions of Norwalk Pathways Academy at Briggs were cordoned off this week, as junior detectives combed a crime scene in search of clues in a whodunit case, where a victim was bludgeoned to death with a hammer.

The faux investigation, staged by the Norwalk Police Department, is similar to the training rookie officers receive. The junior detectives investigating the case are student participants of the civil service academy at Norwalk Pathways Academy. It is one of four pathways the school offers, which prepares students for careers as police officers, firemen and EMTs.

“This is a unique opportunity for the kids to see our investigators and police officers in action. Beyond reading about it or a lecture, the students get to interact and ask questions,” said Deputy Police Chief Ashley Gonzalez. “We’re hoping this propels them to become more involved and develop an understanding of our procedures. Maybe it will inspire them to follow in our footsteps into a career in law enforcement.”

Led by Crime Scene Unit Commander, Lt. Art Weisgerber, students uncovered several clues during the murder investigation including blood, cigarette butts, fingerprints and footprints. “Right now, we’re processing the crime scene, collecting evidence and we’re starting to make determinations about where the case is going,” said Norwalk Police Lt. Terry Blake. “Next week, the students will follow up with our Detective Bureau, who will be here to instruct. They will start drilling down on leads, working on identifying a suspect and working towards making an arrest.”

Press release – continued

The police academy takes place over the course of a semester, with investigation portion of the academy spanning six weeks.

The investigation opened with the NPD patrol unit responding to the incident, where students took notes and learned how to write police reports. Briggs students will also tour the police department, courthouse and the Public Defender’s Office during the semester-long journey. Students will also work with other police units including scuba, marine and K-9 units.

“They’re going to get a really good understanding of all that we do here in the Norwalk Police Department,” said Blake.

Dr. Marie Allen, principal of Norwalk Pathways Academy at Briggs, said the program has created a positive relationship between the police department and students. “It started with our School Resource Officer because he’s very involved with our students. With the police academy coming in, our whole school views police differently. They see now that the police are there to support them and help them,” said Allen. She added that several students are interested in becoming police officers, as a result of the police academy.

Senior Evelyn Buceta is one student interested in following that path. She is interested in joining the U.S. Marines Reserves after graduation, and possibly becoming a military police officer. “I’m interested in becoming a police officer because I want to help a lot of people,” said Buceta. “The way things are now, we need good officers.”

In addition to civil service work, Norwalk Pathways Academy at Briggs offers academies in technology, healthcare and trades, such as cosmetology and plumbing. “The whole idea of the academies is to give them a broad overview of the possibilities in the different disciplines,” said Janis Curtis, partnership coordinator at Briggs. “There’s a whole range of careers that can be had in each pathway.”

The academies also train students applying and interviewing for jobs. A number of paid internships will be available for Briggs seniors this school year. The internships will be funded through the state Turnaround grant.

“We’re hoping to entice local community organizations and businesses to take some of these kids on as interns and allow them to get some hands-on experience,” said Curtis.

ADJOURNMENT

**** DR. CREVECOEUR MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services

Norwalk Board of Education
Curriculum & Instruction Committee
April 4, 2017
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