

**Cromwell Board of Education  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
Unapproved**

**Student Achievement Committee  
October 11, 2016  
MOTIONS AND MINUTES**

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Mr. Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Attendance: Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Sousa

Absent: Ms. Fitts-Ritter

Administrators: Dr. Talty, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Hollander

Motion to approve the agenda as presented, made by Mr. Sousa, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Public Comment: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2016 meeting, made by Mr. Sousa, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Curriculum Review Update

Ms. Hollander and Dr. Talty provided an update on the progress of curriculum review and implementation across the grade levels and across the subjects. Previously, Ms. Hollander had reported to the Committee the implementation of a cycle of curriculum review and implementation that would ensure that curricula stay fresh and in line with current standards.

In Language Arts, the K-5 units of study are nearly complete. For 6-12, the curriculum is now in the implementation phase.

In Math, the K-5 curriculum is in the refinement stage, and has moved from the “what” to the “how” to teach. 6-12 is also in the refinement stage, and Ms. Hollander added that Grades 9-12 are currently revising the Geometry unit.

In Social Studies, the district has implemented new standards and the grade levels are working to implement those new standards. For K-5, the new units of study have been mapped. Ms. Hollander commented that the 6-7 units of study are somewhat entwined with each other, causing some difficulty to create meaningful and coordinated curricula. The U.S. History curriculum for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is being vertically integrated with the CHS curriculum.

In Physical Education, the teams are working on assessments. The Health unit in Grades 6-9 are being revised to reflect current standards. Grades K-5 are undergoing a self-study to develop curriculum.

In the Humanities (Art, Music, etc.), the grade levels are working together during professional development days to align curriculum. There are many new teachers in this area, and they are somewhat new to curriculum development.

In World Language, the teams are working to align the 7-8 curriculum to the 9-12 curriculum.

Ms. Hollander reported that a STEM program has been implemented at WIS. There will be a report on this new program at an upcoming meeting of the full Board of Education.

Mr. Sousa questioned the difference between Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus, as he sees them as being very similar. Dr. Talty indicated that Pre-Calculus is taught at a higher level to prepare students for Calculus.

### Teaching Children Real World Skills

Dr. Talty provided an update on the administration's efforts to provide education to students on "real world" skills, such as doing taxes, filling out a loan application, or balancing a checkbook. Dr. Talty reported that the district currently offers much of this "financial literacy" in an existing course offering (Personal Finance). The administration plans to leverage the existing offerings to create a more robust curriculum for teaching these skills and to create an opportunity for more students to be exposed to such courses.

### Discussion of New Science Standards

In September 2015, the State adopted new "Next Generation Science Standards" (NGSS). An overview of these new standards is contained in the attachment to these minutes. The 2015-2016 school year was the awareness phase for the implementation of these new standards in Cromwell. The district has sent teacher to learn the new skills that are being practiced. These teachers are bringing this knowledge back to the district. The next phase will be to implement a formal program to share these new standards and ways of learning with teachers throughout the district. Dr. Talty will arrange a presentation of these new standards to the full Board. Ms. Hollander noted a possible discrepancy between the existing CMT Science test (which is based on the 2004 science standards) and the new NGSS standards and instructional methods. By 2020, the CMT will be revised to reflect the new standards. Ms. Hollander noted that there may be a need for extra equipment in science classrooms to allow for more applied learning.

Public Comment: None.

Topic for Future Agendas:        Teaching Children Real World Skills  
  New Course Offerings – CHS  
  STAR Assessments  
  World Language Update  
  Pre-K Update

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. made by Mr. Sousa, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Fletcher