

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday – September 2, 2014
Board of Education Conference Room
Hall-Elton Building**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cei called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

K. Castelli, J. Cei, K. Hlavac , J. Marrone, R. McKay, C. Miller, C. Shortell (arrived at 7:32 p.m.), M. Votto

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Cavallaro, J. Churma, J. Foss, J. Iaiennaro, C. Lavalette, L. Moreno, B. McCully, S. Parkhurst, J. Piacentini

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Instructional Committee Meeting minutes of June 2, 2014 were accepted as presented.

III. CURRICULUM

A. Proposed Adoption of Elementary Course Outlines: Elementary Information Technology – Grades 3, 4 & 5

Shawn Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent, stated each Board member received a sampling of the three units that are in grade 3, 4 and 5. Units 1, 2 and 3 for each grade address the same general topic and then it builds from one unit to the other. The standards within these units align with Common Core Standards as well as the International Society of Technology Education Standards. These outlines were written by the InfoTech teachers along with Juliann Iaiennaro, the district Career Technology Education resource teacher.

Mrs. Castelli asked about the district's Google drive account and is concerned about it being a protected domain. Dr. Menzo assured Board members that parents must grant permission (in writing) every year for their student(s) to access this site. She suggested the second sentence of the Department Mission Statement be reworded to read more accurately. Mrs. McKay asked Ms. Iaiennaro to explain the term "digital citizenship". She stated this term truly covers a lot – being respectful of other people's feelings, learning about copyrights, and safely navigating websites. Students must advocate and practice safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology (such as no sharing of passwords) and exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning and productivity. Students should demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning along with exhibiting leadership for digital citizenship. Digital citizenship is part of our content standards in this district.

Mrs. Hlavac noted in the Grade 4 – Unit 1 it states teachers will set up accounts for each fifth grade student to track student data and asked what data is being tracked. Ms. Iaiennaro stated they track words per minute that students master, accuracy of typing, the results of student summative & formative assessments, and student performance tasks. Dr. Menzo stated our main computer system is covered through disaster recovery. The only information being stored in the "cloud" at this point is student assignments in each building.

This district currently has two domain names: The Google domain is Wallingfordpublicschools.org and that allows the district to have control over student Google domains. The other domain is our website name: wallingford.k12.ct.us. Mr. Cei asked if the scope of the work being done includes utilizing technology to enhance the instructional level throughout subject areas. Dr. Menzo noted this curriculum is designed for students to develop technical skills and as curriculum is written in other areas, teachers will draw from the skills taught in Grades 3, 4 & 5. Ms. Iannaro added this curriculum is taught in thirds throughout the school year and the students have instruction once every six days for 45 minutes.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed adoption of Elementary Course Outlines: Elementary Information Technology – Grades 3, 4 & 5 for approval to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

IV. PRESENTATION

A. District 2014 CMT Scores

Mr. Parkhurst stated in each Board packet there are Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science CMT scores. Grade 5 scores in percent by level have pretty much stayed steady. The gap between students becomes evident in ethnicity scores in the percent at/above goal, in free/reduced lunch in the percent at/above goal and in special education in the percent at/above goal. Laurie Moreno, the district K-12 Science Resource teacher, stated there has been a lot of variations in the past of when and how long science is taught at each of the 3 -5 elementary schools. Teachers are telling her there is not enough time in the schedule to teach science. Dr. Menzo noted there is frustration among teachers because the State has been reluctant to finalize science standards; so elementary teachers are teaching standards they believe will change. Some districts have found that having all teachers teach science is not necessarily the best option. These districts have identified an expert in this subject area at each grade level and all students then attend a science lab classroom for science instruction. The statewide goal for at/above goal in science for grade 5 students is 74.9% and Wallingford is just slightly below that percentage.

Grade 8 scores in percent by level have also stayed steady. The gap between students becomes evident in ethnicity scores in the percent at/above goal, in free/reduced lunch in the percent at/above goal and in special education in the percent at/above goal. The statewide goal for at/above goal in science for Grade 8 students is 62.5% and Wallingford is at 73.4%.

B. District 2014 CAPT Scores

Mr. Parkhurst stated in each Board packet are the Grade 10 CAPT scores. The gap between students becomes evident in ethnicity scores in the percent at/above goal, in free/reduced lunch in the percent at/above goal and in special education in the percent at/above goal. The statewide goal for at/above goal in science for Grade 10 students is 46.8% and Wallingford is at 56.4%.

C. China School Partnership Agreement

Dr. Menzo stated Julie Foss, Assistant Principal at Moran Middle School, is one of the two founding members of the district's Global Awareness Committee and she has worked with the No. 1 Middle School in Shandong Province, China to create a school partnership with Moran Middle School. Mrs. Foss noted the idea behind this partnership is to integrate technology to facilitate curricular and cultural connections at the middle school level. Through leveraging technology it is the hope to lessen the geographical divide between students in China and the United States and to facilitate dialogue about each culture, what students are learning, and how they can apply that learning to address problems that affect them personally and the world at large. Students will develop soft-skills (problem solving, interpersonal skills, critical thinking, empathy, perspective & perseverance) so students will become more effective communicators and contributors to their schools, communities, and the world.

Mrs. Foss also stated this partnership develops professional learning experiences for teachers through developing professional partnerships for teachers. This builds capacity among faculty members to better serve the needs of students, ready them for college and careers, and facilitate students' contribution to a global society. Both students and staff will explore innovative practices around the world through engaging in innovative conversations regarding promising educational practices (blended learning, competency-based educations, extended & extended learning opportunities).

Mrs. McKay asked Mrs. Foss what she perceived would be the academic connections through this partnership. She stated one example would be to take an issue, (which could be local or international) and ask the students to collaborate and come up with a solution. This academic connection can be applied to any of the common core subjects – social studies, mathematics, language arts or science. Dr. Menzo stated signing this agreement is very important to Chinese school districts. It represents a sign of prestige that they have a partnership with a public school district in the United States.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the signed proposed School Partnership Agreement with No. 1 Middle School in Shandong Province, China for approval to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Cei adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCully
Assistant Superintendent's Secretary