

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday – May 5, 2014
Board of Education Conference Room
Hall-Elton Building**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Shortell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

M. Brooder, K. Castelli, K. Hlavac, J. Marrone, R. McKay, C. Miller, C. Shortell, M. Votto

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

D. Dressel, B. McCully, C. McNamara, S. Menzo, L. Moreno, S. Parkhurst

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Instructional Committee Meeting minutes of April 21, 2014 were accepted with corrections.

III. PRESENTATION

A. Middle School/High School Health Curriculum Presentation

Laurie Moreno, the district science and technology resource teacher and Doreen Dressel, health teacher at Lyman Hall High School, presented the revisions to the middle school/high school health curriculum. Mrs. Moreno stated two years ago it was requested this curriculum be updated so the language fit within the new template. The units did not change – the only addition to the overview was the grade ten Unit 4 – Preventive Health. There is a listing of additional resources on the last page of each unit. Mrs. Dressel stated health is taught one time per rotation in grades six, seven and eight and includes between eighteen and twenty lessons per rotation.

Mr. Shortell commented on one of the essential questions in the grade 7, Unit 1 – Relationships: *How and where do I find valid information, products and services?* and asked if it appears in other units.

Mrs. Moreno stated this particular question is in several other units and allows students to self-advocate and find information they need; which is part of our curriculum goals. Mrs. Dressel noted the state framework is what truly drives this curriculum document and the emphasis today in health education is skill acquisition. The highest level of skill acquisition is advocacy; which includes teaching core concepts to students and providing them with opportunities to practice and apply the information. Mr. Shortell also inquired where students could find valid sexual health information and resources. Mr. Parkhurst stated some of the websites students can access are *Choose My Plate, Natural High, Planned Parenthood, Teen Drug Abuse.gov, Teen Pregnancy, Centers for Disease Control, Kids Health.org and Scholastic/Choices*. Mrs. Dressel added that parents have the option of having their student not participate in the family life unit and these students are provided with an alternate course of study.

Mr. Shortell stated he has concerns with the *Planned Parenthood* website (and the services they offer on the website) being included as a resource for students.

The consensus of the Board, with the exception of Mr. Shortell voting no, was to send the revised Middle School/High School Health Curriculum to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

B. Strategic Plan Review Update

Dr. Menzo stated in the summer of 2010 ACES was the district's consultant for creating the strategic plan. At that time they created a questionnaire for parents, organized focus groups and met with our strategic plan steering committee. It is now time to discuss the next steps for strategic planning and our ACES consultant, Leslie Abbatello, believes that we should first review any and all data we presently have regarding the implementation of the strategic plan. It is after this review that the district can decide if another survey is needed for parents, students, and staff. She is recommending having a three-day session on July 21, 22 & 23 with the original steering committee to review district data aligned to strategic plan goals and outcomes and to analyze strategic plan data to identify district needs aligned to strategic plan goals and outcomes. The participants will then create an action plan(s) aligned with strategic plan goals and outcomes to address district needs identified in district data. At the end of the three days she will make recommendations on adjusting our action plan(s) indicating the next steps, timeline and indicators of success. The cost of this strategic plan review is \$3,700, which will come from contingency funds. Dr. Menzo stated he expects there to be twenty-four participants attending this three-day session.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the 2014-2015 ACES proposal of services for the district strategic plan review to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

C. Teacher Evaluation Update

Mr. McNamara stated he has been meeting each month with the entire teacher evaluation committee to discuss all aspects concerning the communication of the new teacher evaluation plan. This group has been responsible for planning all the professional development provided for all teachers. There is currently a subcommittee which will be meeting in May to discuss and plan for possible evaluation plan changes for the 2014-2015 school year. There are three identified issues in the guidelines for educator evaluation. The State Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) has proposed three areas for revision – 1.) the Dispute-Resolution Process, 2.) the Rating System – which includes four performance evaluation designators, and 3.) the Student Growth Component. Our district has identified the following areas to discuss: supervised assistance plan, orientation to the evaluation process, alignment of administrator and teacher Student Learning Objectives, the number of Student Learning Objectives, the number of observations for tenured teachers, consistency between schools and administrators and expanding the definition of Educational Specialists. The 2014-2015 plan must be submitted to the State Department of Education no later than June 2, 2014. Mr. Votto noted the evaluation process is to help improve teaching and should not be seen as a tool to “fire” teachers. Dr. Menzo agreed.

D. SBAC Testing Update

Mr. Parkhurst stated there were seventeen students (from thirteen families) whose parents refused to have them participate in the SBAC field test. Students who did not participate in the testing were involved in other academic activities. Students not taking the test were told to check the “left blank” box on the testing packet. Dr. Menzo added that next year the SBAC (Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium) will be an actual test and not a field test. The challenge is, unlike CAPT testing, SBAC testing has no connection to graduation. The State Department of Education realizes this is an issue and is looking for recommendations from districts throughout the State of Connecticut. There are now conversations occurring centered on competencies and about the standards being developed.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Advertising Policy

Mr. Parkhurst stated this item – Advertising at High School Athletic Fields Regulation - 1325a was presented to the Board for review. Mr. Miller suggested the word sign and signage be replaced with the word banner throughout the regulation since banners can easily be removed and rolled up for storage. The word “audio” was removed the first sentence of the regulation.

The word “each” was added to section five under Accounting, sentence one was changed to read as follows: Funds will be processed and managed by the Varsity Club at each of the high schools. In section five under Accounting, sentence two was changed to read as follows: At the end of each school year, the athletic directors and officers of each Varsity Club shall meet to account for the funds and all expenditures. Item H. under General Prohibitions was removed. In section D. under Approval of Drafts, sentence two was changed to read the following: The District shall review all advertising and have sole discretion for any and all adjustments to align the banner with the Wallingford Public Schools policy regarding Advertising at High School Athletic Facilities and these regulations.

The unanimous consensus of the Board was to send the proposed regulation Advertising at High School Athletic Facilities – 1325a to the Board of Education for action at its next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Shortell adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCully
Assistant Superintendent's Secretary