

MINUTES OF CURRICULUM
COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Stamford, Connecticut
April 21, 2008

The Curriculum Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was held on April 21, 2008 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by Ms. Lorenti, Chairperson, with the following Committee members present: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. King, and Mr. Mathews. Also in attendance: Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Ms. Wade, Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Swerdlick, and Ms. Blackwell.

Ms. Lorenti moved the agenda items out of order and asked Ms. Blackwell to make her presentation on the new Health/Physical Education Curriculum. Ms. Blackwell reviewed the new curriculum and explained the 5-2-1-0 concept to live a healthy and balanced life. She explained that they will be reaching out to the community and parents and working with building administration so that all have an understanding of the materials and expectations. She also indicated that the Health and Wellness Committee would be looking to develop a technology connection and would also be looking into bringing in blood pressure cups, new equipment at the high schools and to compete online in rowing and cycling. The implementation would be over a 3 year period and would include training on staff development days. Grants have also been applied for.

Dr. Starr indicated that the status of the Environmental Magnet School is on hold until the Redistricting Committee makes a determination as to which school will close and what the grade configuration will be at the Environmental Magnet School. He noted that the biggest issue is the hiring of a principal and two teachers to help with opening the school in 2009.

Dr. Starr gave an update on the IB Program and what might be possible and how to spend the \$80,000 allocated well. Some of the ideas are to open the IB Middle Years program at Rippowam which would have to be discussed with the school community. He has spoken to the principal, Mr. Giberti, who was interested and wrote a proposal. If the Board gave support for this plan he would have to work with the SEA. Dr. Starr noted that this would require training, professional development, and teamwork. After the 2008-2009 budget has been completed Dr. Starr would work as quickly as possible on this project. Ms. Lorenti asked for a consensus from the Committee for pursuing this matter and

the Committee was in agreement that Dr. Starr should pursue. The Committee gave Dr. Starr a list of questions which will be answered in a memo in the Board package.

Dr. Hamilton gave an update on scheduling for the middle and high school levels and distributed information reflecting where the changes would be. At the middle school level the change will be from 3-3/4 hours to 5 hours per week. At the high school level chemistry labs will be added for all juniors, a CAPT prep portfolio class for juniors, and 4 more AP classes at Westhill High School and 6 more at Stamford High School. There were questions from the Committee regarding the changes which were answered by Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Starr.

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m. with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. King, and Mr. Mathews.

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Officer