



Instruction Subcommittee Special Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2022 5:30 PM

Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137 B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Purpose of the Instruction Subcommittee: Reviews and provides input to the decision-making related to all instructional learning initiatives, curriculum and programming decisions, and implementation of legislation related to curriculum.

Attendance Taken at 5:30 PM.

Erica Gelven: Present
Peter Nye: Present
Alan Samet: Present
Jack Scherban: Present
Catherine Staunton: Present

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance was Assistant Superintendent M. Famiglietti, Morgan Assistant Principal C. Luther, and Superintendent M. O'Donnell.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

2. Discussion re: Current High School GPA Calculation Method & Class Rank

Assistant Superintendent M. Famiglietti explained that the high school has been exploring GPA and Class Ranking for students since 2019. Assistant Principal C. Luther provided a presentation overview of how The Morgan School has historically addressed GPA and Class Rank. The Morgan School uses a GPA scale of 70 and ranks students accordingly. He proceeded to provide context to the calculation of GPA and pointed out the difficulty and challenges of our current system that is completely unique to our school. In addition, the presentation included information about class rank and rationale for and against continuing the practice. C. Luther and M. Famiglietti shared several options for GPA ranking and provided information of GPA and class rank practices at other schools.

The subcommittee raised questions and there was extensive discussion on the topic. It was agreed that C. Luther and M. Famiglietti would bring a proposal for a revised GPA calculation method based on the 4.0 scale for consideration at the next subcommittee meeting. In addition, the proposal will include a method for weighted grade adjustments for honors/AP classes and a recommendation related to changes in the approach to ranking students in a class.

3. Discussion re: Contracting for Selected High School Honors Courses

M. Famiglietti explained the idea of the Honors Challenge that will be used at Morgan next year for selected elective courses including Journalism, Data Science, Forensic Science, and African American-Latino Studies. This would allow students who choose to take on the additional component/challenge to be eligible to receive honors credit for the course. Teachers of these courses will develop an appropriate learning requirement for the honors credit to be in place for the 2022-2023 school year.

4. Discussion re: Future Priorities & Goals of the Subcommittee

Members of the committee and chair P. Nye discussed the priorities and topics for the subcommittee to consider in the future. P. Nye emphasized that he would like to see the subcommittee include topics that would support teachers in their work and the development of their practice.

5. General Discussion

6. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by M. O'Donnell