



Instruction Subcommittee Special Meeting

April 10, 2019 4:30 PM
Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137-B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 4:33 PM:

Present Board Members:

Erica Gelven
Catherine Staunton

1. Opening Exercises

1.A. Roll call

Discussion:

Also present were Asst. Superintendent M. Famiglietti, Superintendent M. O'Donnell, Joel Principal A. Guarascio, and Joel teachers A. Conderino and J. Cain.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

All stood for the pledge.

2. Joel Schedule for 2019-2020

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti introduced the overview of guiding principles that were utilized to develop the new schedule at Joel Elementary. He reviewed the timeline of the process that began in the fall of 2018 and has continued to today's sharing with the subcommittee. Principal Guarascio shared the layout of each grade level's schedule and explained the thinking about the decisions that were made to meet the guiding principles that were established. She provided information about instructional minutes for each of the curricular areas by grade level. Mrs. Guarascio also shared that there will be both a grade 3 and grade 4 chorus, 4th grade instrumental program, and that Project Adventure will be embedded in grades K-4 with the culminating event in grade 4. M. Famiglietti explained that he will be working with PE teachers to map out a continuum of Project Adventure curriculum from K-8 with culminating experiences in grades 4 and 8.

3. Discussion re: Looping

Discussion:

M. Famiglietti began the discussion regarding the looping structure at Joel Elementary that has been in place for many years and involves students staying with one teacher for grade 2 and grade 3. He highlighted some of the benefits of the model, as well as some of the new challenges to our model. This includes the number of families interested in the model, the change in grade level sequence, the increased demands on teachers to learn curriculum standards, and the ability for teachers to collaborate. Teaching the curriculum every other year, makes it challenging to develop the level of expertise necessary to meet students' needs. The gap between years impacts the professional development process and the ability to provide two-year's worth of training to the group of teachers that loop.

Discussion ensued and questions were answered regarding the model and possible changes.

4. General Discussion

Discussion:

Information night was held for Eliot parents of current 6th and 7th grade students. Overall, it went well and it was an opportunity to share information and to answer questions about the new schedule and some of the changes.

5. Adjournment

Discussion:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. O'Donnell