



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning & Teaching Committee Minutes

July 21, 2021

Online <https://zoom.us/j/99082406865?pwd=UFRZOEZxR2trQzd5eFVUS3ZWbjlWQT09>

- Board policy guidance if needed.
- Board update on Remote Learning.
- Board recommendation on policy adoptions if needed.

"The Teaching & Learning Committee shall focus on matters of teaching and learning strategy, including curriculum and instruction practices, talent initiatives, school portfolio management and wraparound initiatives which are designed to support student learning and district responsibilities."

In attendance: Dr. Joyner (Chair of Committee), Mr. Conaway (Board Member), Mathew Wilcox, NHBOE: Ivelise Velazquez, Dr. Iline Tracey, Dr. Paul Whyte, Lynn Brantley, Pedro Mendia-Landa, Dr. Richard Therrien, Ellen Maust, Rosalyn Ortiz-Diaz

Guests: Leslie Brown, Joanne Wilcox

Dr. Joyner called the meeting to order at 433.

1. How do we conduct this meeting respectfully and effectively?

Dr. Joyner is Chair for the meeting, Ms. Velazquez is the Host, and Dr Therrien is taking minutes, need to get them in a timely fashion. Talked about trying to systemize things across the district, including language development and policies.

2. How will the district instructional framework support language development through reading, vocabulary, and writing?

Ms. Velazquez and the Curriculum Supervisors will discussed the instructional frameworks that every school will use to deliver effective instruction across content areas. They shared the instructional frameworks document (Spring 2019). LINK [Link found at here](https://docs.google.com/a/nhps.net/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bmhwcY5uZXR8bmV3LWVhdmVuLXB1YmxpYy1zY2hvb2xzLWN1cnJpY3VsdW18Z3g6MzQyMzA2MDQwZmE1MWUyMg)
<https://docs.google.com/a/nhps.net/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bmhwcY5uZXR8bmV3LWVhdmVuLXB1YmxpYy1zY2hvb2xzLWN1cnJpY3VsdW18Z3g6MzQyMzA2MDQwZmE1MWUyMg>

. The work was started in 2019 supervisors developed these as well as consulted with teachers and based them on the standards. It was rolled out in 2019-20. An important piece is common guiding principles across all subjects: students learn by talking, interacting with texts, engaging with real world connections, and setting goals. New teachers get more intense review of what each of the guiding principles and student experiences look like in the classroom.

Each subject supervisor reviewed their guiding principles for subject instruction then reviewed what student experiences look like for each core practice. Literacy was reviewed. Ms. Velazquez talked about how we are targeting early learning especially with oral discussion, writing, reading. She also reviewed how the frameworks aligned to the new math frameworks.

The science framework was reviewed, both the principles and the student experiences, especially the role of discourse, academic language, note booking. Ms. Velazquez reviewed how we are focusing on rich subject content in early grades with interdisciplinary units designed to integrate subjects such as science with literacy.

Ms. Maust discussed the arts framework and how it fits student choice and their own creations and voice, not just recreate and how the use of language aligns with that, through the use of "text". Much use of language comes on reflection, hopefully there will be more discourse in the upcoming in person year. She also talked about reconnecting with the community.

Ms. Velazquez showed a sample set for success prek-5 document showing activities and minutes for parts of literacy (LINK: [literacy framework found here](#) \ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1njeZxJWoEubrVq_--byMOMHxKUJ3hjiY99K_JqU_9II/edit#gid=844995747) and explained the progress monitoring piece.

The framework document also includes specific guidelines for English Learners including that all teachers and subjects have responsibility for English language instruction, should include academically rigorous instruction that leverage students' culture, supports and assets. Dr. Joyner commented on the language development and other difficulties some students have.

Dr. Joyner asked how we are training administrators in these frameworks, how we are making sure that teachers are using these to make goals. Expressed a wish to make sure there are Board of Ed policies to focus on instruction.

Mr. Wilcox discussed there are model 6000 policies from CAFE and that 1.5 years ago this group had a list of policies to look at. Also suggested there be regular updates on how different initiatives are going and effect on student achievement.

2. What Board of Education policies ensure instructional practice is delivered that results in high levels of engagement and increased academic attainment at every grade level? Ms. Velazquez and Dr. Joyner will review the major policies that the committee will review between now and Dec.

Ms. Velazquez showed a [list of some 10 New Haven Instructional Policies that could/need to be updated, along with links to the 6000 series](#). <<LINK . <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wW6FE-usDKgs6uvNRKgzOmJMQhF7xMpeYeMcyypPoKo/edit> They will continue reviewing and Dr Joyner will also suggest some.

3. What resources are available for teachers to ensure students have access to content that is culturally relevant and engages their critical thinking? Humanities Curriculum: Black and Latino Studies and Social Justice –What is included in the model curriculum for [Black and Puerto Rican Studies](#) <https://files.serc.co/pa1912/20210701-CT BL Curriculum - screen - v1.pdf> <<LINK and how will the district pilot the curriculum?

Teachers have been recruited from each high school to do the model curriculum (found at: <https://pa1912.serc.co>) , teachers will be going to professional development. This course will not replace our current Black studies course, but at least one section will be offered at each high school, and we will examine how students respond and how it might inform other courses. Dr. Joyner and supervisors discussed the importance that culture has for a group of people and how history depends on who tells the story and how it all is a part of critical thinking.

Dr. Joyner also expressed interest in a policy about independent reading in New Haven and Ms. Velazquez connected it to multicultural teaching and pedagogy. There will be two full days of 32 different presenters with 250 teachers in August on multicultural pedagogy. The literacy department (found at 21 Wooster) has changed a lot of new reading titles to be more multicultural and relevant for students.

Dr. Joyner asked about a policy around a vocabulary list.

JoAnne Wilcox made some comments about English Language Learners. Dr. Joyner reemphasized the importance of teaching language, culture and critical thinking and reasoning for all.

5. Closing Remarks, Dr. Joyner

Thanks everyone again

Dr. Joyner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Therrien, Ed.D.