

Eastford Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2019
School Library

- I. Chair Marmat called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- II. Attendance: Gerald Marmat, Megan Dill, Charles Kernan, Michelle Bibeault, Dr. Donna Leake, Carole McCombe
- III. EES has established Core Values for all students: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible. These are reinforced through visual posters around the building, matrices of expectations posted in all areas of the building, regular review and discussion through Second Step lessons and class meetings.
- IV. Math K-8 overview: Teachers in grades 1-6 are becoming more comfortable with Envision 2.0. The program is very robust and teachers are finding it hard to fit in all the units. Collaboration time would be useful to develop a scope and sequence and pacing guide across grade levels to ensure all students are being exposed to all the materials each year. Grades 7 and 8 use Glencoe/McGraw Hill which is a combination of online and student consumable books. This program is adequately meeting students needs at this time. Grade 8 Algebra is the same course that Woodstock Academy uses for their Algebra course. Woodstock Academy has written their own curriculum for this course which they share with us each year.
- V. Reading Street – ELA: Grades K-6 would like to explore updating the ELA resources/programs that they currently use. Reading Street was purchased in 2008, 2010, and upgraded in 2012 to reflect the change over to common core. Teachers feel that since that time, many advances have been made in common core instructional materials and teaching strategies. Many teachers are already supplementing to engage students and meet their instructional needs. Updated resources could reduce the need for supplemental material, better align curriculum across grade levels, and improve student outcomes in English/language arts.
- VI. Social Studies –grades 5-8 updates: The new Social Studies Frameworks dictate that American History be taught in grades 5 and 8. Current grade 5 materials are from 2002 and include a teacher textbook/resources and a student textbook. Current grade 8 materials are from 2005 and include a teacher textbook/resources and a student textbook. In addition, grades 6 and 7 study world history and contemporary issues. They share a textbook with a copyright of 2008. Issues that were contemporary in 2008 are no longer contemporary in 2019, so social studies teachers in grades 5-8 need to supplement the current program to provide students with contemporary issues.

Mr. Kernan has researched programs, materials and resources and has proposed a digital/consumable option for grades 5-8. Grades 5 and 8 would share an American history book and grades 6 and 7 would share a World history book. Both proposed programs are a combination of digital and consumable materials.

- VII. Enrichment: Currently, thirteen students in grades 2-5 receive enrichment pullout services one day a week. In addition, Mrs. Lynch also provides whole class enrichment to students in grades K/1- grade 4. Whole class enrichment is determined through teacher collaboration and is designed to extend current teaching units.
- VIII. Professional Development and Assessments: November PD day focused on mandated trainings and on analyzing and aligning district assessments. Current district assessments were reviewed and evaluated for the student data they generate. If this data is being gathered from multiple sources, then the need for the assessment was questioned. We are looking to use assessments to guide our instruction, but want to be careful that we are not overly assessing students unnecessarily. Looking forward, our plan is to work on aligning assessments to match the standards and our curriculum resources and also to develop a scope and sequence and pacing guide to provide continuity across grade levels.
- IX. NWEA Reading Fluency: This is a new online assessment tool that we tried this school year in grades K-3. The idea was that it would help streamline some of the reading assessments that we currently administer on a one-to-one basis with students. NWEA Reading Fluency is an online format that allows teachers to assess multiple students at the same time. Teachers in grades K-2 found that they can better assess students one-to-one while they are sitting with them versus as a group on computers. We will continue using it this school year and then reevaluate its value as we renew our license for NWEA assessments for next school year.
- X. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.