

Eastford Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
~~March 14, 2017~~
Postponed to March 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM.

Attendance: Lori Crocker-Lincoln, Carole McCombe, Elizabeth Rynhart, Michelle Bibeault (arrived at 11:10), Karen Bergin (arrived at 11:15), Gerald Marmat, Heather Tamsin, Linda Loretz

- I. Math Program: Update on Textbook recommendation
 - A. Grades one through six would like to adopt the enVision 2.0 program.
 - B. Kindergarten will continue to use the current version and the company representative said that those materials will support the transition.
 - C. The total cost for four years is \$7,395.15. This includes consumable books and online access.
- II. Eighth Grade PSAT
 - A. As far as we know, Woodstock is the only sending Academy town that will have students take the PSAT in eighth grade during the 2017-18 school year.
 - B. The main advantage of taking the PSAT seems to be the ability to use students' results to inform Khan Academy lessons. Eastford is using NWEA to inform Khan Academy.
 - C. A disadvantage is that the test takes an entire day to administer.
 - D. For now, Eastford will not plan to give the PSAT in grade eight. This could change if the information from the Academy or other sending towns changes.
- III. Overview of March 10 Professional Development Day
 - A. PEG (Project Essay Grade) online writing application: webinar provided for Grades 3-8 teachers.
 - B. Mrs. Kopplin and paraprofessionals met to review and discuss PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System).
 - C. Mrs. Mead met with teachers of grades K, 1 and 2 to discuss science assessments.
 - D. Jason Allan, network administrator, demonstrated new teleconferencing equipment and introduced the functions of Google Classroom.
 - E. Lori Crocker-Lincoln presented information on the new Student Profile report on NWEA.
 - F. Mr. Kernan shared information on the use of Khan Academy to individualize instruction for students based on the Student Profile in NWEA.
 - G. Mrs. Bergin and Mrs. Tamsin presented information about recognizing trauma and anxiety.
 - H. Mr. Kernan led teachers in developing a curriculum map based on the Connecticut Social Studies Framework.
- IV. Possible Purchase of Chromebooks and curricular enhancements with Google
 - A. Usernames for Students have been established.

- B. Mrs. Lessard will participate in Google Educator Certification Boot Camp Level 2.
 - C. The plan is to bring in a Google Classroom expert to work with the teachers in June. Mrs. Tamsin is working on this.
 - D. Mrs. Bibeault reported that MacBooks cost \$1,000 while Chromebooks cost about \$200. She also stated that some programs would work on MacBooks and not Chromebooks. She also stated that MacBooks are more durable; Chromebooks will probably not survive being dropped.
 - E. Mrs. Tamsin and Mrs. Bibeault indicated that the Chromebooks would not last as long as MacBooks. Two years is evidently the lifespan of the Chromebooks whereas we use the MacBooks for five to seven years.
 - F. Mrs. Tamsin and Mrs. Bibeault also commented on printing issues with Chromebooks; we may not be able to use our copiers as printers. This is something for further research.
 - G. It will also be important to determine whether the NWEA assessments are supported on the Chromebooks. Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that we will want to check Chromebooks compatibility with SmartBoards.
 - H. Mr. Marmat indicated that the purchase of Chromebooks is still in the discussion stages and the Board of Education would like to know about advantages and disadvantages. Subsequent to the meeting, Mrs. Tamsin was asked to report on advantages and disadvantages at the April Board meeting.
- V. Social Studies Curriculum
- In addition to the professional development session on March 10, Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. McCombe attended a session with Steve Armstrong, SDE Consultant for Social Studies, about the Social Studies framework and the use of inquiry in teaching Social Studies. Mr. Armstrong complimented Eastford for sending feedback to the state and he offered to conduct professional development in Eastford.
- VI. RTI Review:
- A. Mrs. Tamsin presented a report to the Board of Education and the team is working on a self-evaluation along with a consultant at SERC (State Education Resource Center).
 - B. Mrs. Lincoln stated that shifts in scheduling of the RTI would have an impact on the functioning of the team.
- VII. The next meeting is scheduled for May 30; Mr. Marmat asked that one be scheduled sooner.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.