

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee
Agenda
December 5, 2024
5:00 pm
Newfound Regional High School
Room 106

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of June 3, 2024 Minutes
4. Middle School Health Curriculum
5. Public Comment
6. Open Discussion, Concerns, or Ideas
7. Next Meeting
8. Adjourn

NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee
Minutes
June 3, 2024
6:00 pm
Newfound Regional High School
Room 106

Committee Members Present: Dominic Halle (Bridgewater), Melissa Suckling (Danbury), Paul Hoiriis (Newfound Regional High School), Christopher Ulrich (Newfound Memorial Middle School), Ariel Maloney (Newfound Regional High School)

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Larochelle (Hebron), Jeanette Shedd (SAU), Linda Green (Bristol Elementary School)

Staff/Public Present: Jay Peringer (New Hampton/NMMS)

Mr. Hoiriis called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Hoiriis presented the March 18, 2024 minutes for approval. Mr. Halle moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Maloney seconded, and they were approved 3-0-2-3 (Mr. Ulrich and Mrs. Suckling abstaining).

Mrs. Suckling nominated Dominic Halle as chair of the Curriculum Committee. Mr. Hoiriis seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0-0-3. Mr. Hoiriis nominated Melissa Suckling as vice chair of the committee. Mr. Halle seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0-0-3. Mr. Hoiriis agreed to take minutes for the committee.

The committee discussed adding two parent representatives to replace the two parents who resigned from the committee. Mrs. Suckling will announce the openings at the June 10th School Board meeting asking for parent volunteers to contact her.

Mr. Peringer presented proposed civics/economics textbooks to be purchased for the middle school. These books will support the content of grades 6-8 civics and economics and align with the competencies. Mr. Ulrich moved to approve the recommendation to purchase the textbooks. Mrs. Suckling seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0-0-3. The recommendation will be presented to the School Board at the June 10th meeting.

No public comment was offered.

The committee discussed researching how other district curriculum committees operate. Mrs. Maloney will report back to the committee after she researches this charge.

The next Curriculum Committee will be scheduled in the fall upon the return to school.

At 6:43 pm, Mrs. Suckling moved to adjourn. Mr. Halle seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0-0-3.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of March 18, 2024 Minutes
3. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk
4. Discuss addition of parent representatives
5. Middle School Social Studies Textbook
6. Public Comment
7. Open Discussion, Concerns, or Ideas

8. Next Meeting

9. Adjourn

Proposal: Project School Wellness Middle School Health Curriculum

Rationale:

- Integrating a school wellness curriculum for middle school health classes is crucial to address the unique needs of this age group. Middle school is a pivotal time in students' physical, emotional, and social development, making it an ideal period to establish lifelong healthy habits.
- Health behaviors formed during adolescence often persist into adulthood. Teaching nutrition, physical activity, mental health, and substance prevention equips students with skills to make informed choices now and in the future.
- Today's youth face challenges such as increased screen time, mental health concerns, vaping, and peer pressure. Project School Wellness curriculum can provide evidence-based strategies to address these issues.
- Project School Wellness curriculum incorporates SEL within the curriculum to enhance students' ability to manage emotions, set goals, and establish positive relationships. This is essential for overall health and academic success.
- The curriculum includes activities like role-playing, group discussions, and problem-solving exercises that make learning interactive and engaging, which improves retention and motivation.

Why This Curriculum:

- Standards aligned with SHAPE America Standards: Ensuring students receive consistent, high-quality education on critical health topics.
- Skills based: By focusing on skills rather than just information, this method instills habits students can carry into adulthood, such as setting fitness goals or recognizing unhealthy relationships.
- Learning progression fits multiple of our district-level professional learning and instructional goals:
 - Curriculum design aligns with tenants of Visible Learning, helping make it clear for students what, why, and how they are learning
 - Supports work of Promising Futures grant (funding source) through increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors for students
 - Financial health unit will help prepare students for NRHS Financial Literacy coursework (NHED graduation requirement)
 - Built-in connections in curriculum to other district initiatives such as Red Ribbon Week, interdisciplinary work, advisory model, student self-assessments, etc.

Other Considerations:

- Implementing a middle school wellness curriculum empowers students to take ownership of their health and well-being, ultimately contributing to a healthier school environment and community.
- A comprehensive curriculum considers the diverse needs and backgrounds of all students, creating a safe space for discussion and learning about health topics that affect everyone differently.
- Wellness education can extend beyond the classroom by involving families and community resources, reinforcing healthy practices at home and in the broader community.