

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2024**

The March 21, 2024, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mrs. Acree at 4:59 PM.

Present: Jean Acree, Janet Cushman & Amanda Pickett
Absent: None
Also Present: Chairwoman Charlotte Riley, Adrienne Snow, Debra Gaskell, Laura Wisnesky, Andrew Snyder & Michelle Middleton
Audience: Mistie Parsons

Reading Program:

Ms. Snow began by sharing a few samples of student work with the committee. Then she and Mrs. Gaskell explained the work that was done in the 2022-2023 school year vetting the seven programs chosen by the state. They explained the process for recruiting teachers to be a part of the committee which reviewed and rated four of the seven programs, ultimately choosing two to pilot. Twelve teachers piloted the two programs – six used one program and six used another. All grade levels, K-5, were represented by at least one teacher. After the approximately six-week pilot was finished, the teachers met and rated the program based on criteria found in a state document entitled *Guide to Piloting a New Curriculum Model or Program, 2023*. The program that came out on top with a score of 277.5 out of a possible 300 was Houghton Mifflin Harcourt’s Into Reading. The other program used in the pilot only received a score of 179 out of 300.

Ms. Wisnesky and Mr. Snyder gave examples of teaching the elements of the criteria found on the rubric and explained what they liked about this program. Ms. Wisnesky reported that “the level of learning was lifted” in her classroom when she began using this program. Mr. Snyder felt that the engagement of his students when using this program was impressive. The teachers talked about instruction on foundational reading skills, vocabulary, and writing. The program’s strengths in promoting student inquiry, cross-curricular lessons, and small group materials were highlighted.

Committee members were given some teacher and student resources to look through along with examples of student writing. Ms. Snow and Mrs. Gaskell also discussed next steps in this process. Those steps include professional development beginning this year, analyzing the program to see which existing resources should stay because they enhance the instruction or fill a gap, and continuing the pilot using Into Reading with all twelve teachers.

Committee members asked about the plan for next year and it was explained that we would like to move forward with the Into Reading program. Committee members supported that decision and had no concerns.

Respect Project:

Ms. Middleton explained that she had reviewed the information Mrs. Cushman had sent to her regarding the Respect Project, but she had not viewed the professional development. The information sent included information on the U.S. Department of Education’s Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary

Schools. Mrs. Cushman had seen information on the Respect Project and thought this professional development could help our teachers communicate to students their First Amendment rights regarding their faith. It was suggested by a committee member that we explore how (or if) this information is currently being disseminated. Ms. Middleton will look into that and watch the Respect Project's professional development. This item will be placed on the April agenda.

Items from the Table:

Mrs. Acree and Mrs. Pickett both asked about handwriting instruction at the elementary level. Ms. Middleton explained that is part of the reading program that will be implemented K-5 next year.

Mrs. Pickett asked for an update on summer programming. Ms. Middleton explained that based on funding it does not appear that EPS will be offering an elementary or middle school opportunity this summer.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on April 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer