

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2024**

The April 18, 2024, Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Mrs. Acree at 5:02 PM.

Present: Jean Acree, Janet Cushman & Amanda Pickett
Absent: None
Also Present: Chairwoman Charlotte Riley & Michelle Middleton
Audience: None

Respect Project:

Ms. Middleton distributed information to committee members regarding the Respect Project. Mrs. Cushman had brought their professional development opportunity to Ms. Middleton's attention at a meeting earlier this year and she has been looking into it. The Respect Project provides information and has an aligned professional development session in response to the U.S. Department of Education's Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools. The Respect Project focuses on explaining what is and is not allowed in schools, for both teachers and students, concerning prayer and religious expression. It helps students and teachers understand their rights. It was brought up that students have other constitutionally protected rights that we may want to include in a professional development.

It was mentioned that EPS Board Policy 6144 Controversial Issues provides guidance for teachers as to supporting students in expressing themselves in class and treating differing opinions with respect. A committee member suggested that some of our policies may need a sort of implementation guide to help staff know what they look like in action. It was decided that Ms. Middleton would investigate trainings that may exist for other constitutionally protected rights of staff and students and bring the information to our May meeting. It was also decided that EPS would look to create its own professional development for staff focused on understanding how to protect students' constitutional rights.

Items from the Table:

Mrs. Pickett reported that her family attended the "One Book, Three Schools" kickoff at the Enfield Library and they had great time. Mrs. Acree added that she attended, and she enjoyed herself as well.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on May 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton
Chief Academic Officer