

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 11, 2021

Regular Meeting
Curriculum/Programs and Personnel

- I. Call to Order The Curriculum/Programs and Personnel meeting, held in the Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium and via teleconference, was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Reardon.

Members present: Ms. Reardon, Chair, Mr. Malo, and Ms. Stone. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Mr. Terzian, BOE Chair, Mrs. Kennedy, Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Della Volpe, Principal Litchfield Middle/High School Principal, and Mr. Sattazahn, Chief Operating Officer.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approve the minutes for the regular meeting of February 11, 2021.

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of February 11, 2021, with the modification of removing Mr. Falcetti as a meeting attendee. Mr. Malo seconded the motion as amended. The motion passes unanimously.

III. Communications

Mr. Leone commented the Board of Education has received communications from the community. While sharing this is not related to the Curriculum Committee per se, he wanted to make the members aware that these communications will be attached to the regular Board of Education meeting minutes as an Appendix.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. New Business

- a. Discussion on Virtual Academy

Mr. Leone led a discussion on the development and creation of a Virtual School for 2021-2022. Mr. Leone provided background information on the percentage of remote learners in the district and shared the challenges teachers face while simultaneously instructing in-person and remote students. This virtual setting would be proposed for the secondary level only (grades 6-12), would ensure rigorous instruction using core curriculum from *Edgenuity*, and request those interested students commit by semester.

Mr. Leone and Mrs. Kennedy met with the Chief Performance Officer from the Connecticut State Department of Education regarding this concept. Mr. Leone went on to say there is no statutory law that districts have to have a remote program, and on April 20th all executive orders expire. Additionally, there is current legislation to end remote learning instruction in June 2021.

With the unknowns of COVID-19 and in an effort for the district to be proactive, the committee supports moving forward with this concept. Committee members will be kept informed as this program further develops.

b. Electives and Future Planning Update

Mrs. Kennedy provided an update on new electives for the 2021-2022 school year. These electives include *African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies* and *Electrical Engineering – The Basics*. The district, along with Region 6, will participate in the pilot curriculum created by SERC, for the elective *African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies* and this course will be offered to students as a co-operative program with Litchfield High School and Wamogo. Mrs. Kennedy went onto say there is high interest, 17 students, in the *Electrical Engineering – The Basics* course elective.

Mrs. Kennedy closed this topic by sharing future work. Beginning with the graduating class of 2023, a one-credit master-based diploma assessment will be required for all school districts. The district has applied for a grant, through *EdAdvance* to receive coaching support for help with this work.

VI. Old Business

The district has had one remote snow day and one remote vaccine day. Mr. Leone anticipates given the number of staff that fell ill after the first round of vaccines, it is likely there will be a second and third remote vaccine day. The community will be notified in advance should this occur.

Mr. Leone shared a copy of the latest newsletter, *The Litchfield Pride*. Ms. Reardon commented on the positive feedback she received about the newsletter. Mr. Leone echoed Ms. Reardon's comments that he too has heard positive comments and the newsletter has been well received in the community.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include a NWEA data update.

VIII. Adjournment There being no further business to come before this committee, **Mr. Malo made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Terzian seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem