

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 19, 2021

Curriculum, Programs & Personnel Committee

- I. Call to Order The Curriculum, Programs & Personnel Committee meeting, held in the Litchfield Intermediate School auditorium and via teleconference was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Reardon.

Members present: Ms. Reardon, Chair, Ms. Stone, Mr. Malo, and Mr. Falcetti. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Mr. Terzian, Board of Education Chair, Ms. Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Kennedy, Chief Academic Officer, Mrs. Vecca, Humanities Coordinator, Ms. Smith, Humanities Coordinator, and Mrs. Baranauskas, STEM Coordinator.

- II. Approval of Minutes

a. Review the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2021

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular minutes on June 10, 2021. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- III. Communications

Mr. Leone provided general details on Executive Order ED13 that mandates by September 27, 2021 all employees of public schools are required to be fully vaccinated, have a medical or religious exemption, or provide weekly COVID testing. Medical and religious exemptions would be subject to weekly testing as well. If not in compliance, they are to be released from employment by the district. Mr. Leone is requesting further clarification on some details of this order. He will keep the Board informed at details develop.

- IV. Public Participation

None

- V. Old Business

None

- VI. New Business

a. Summer Learning Participation

Mrs. Kennedy provided an update on the success of *Summerfest*, the summer learning program for students from Regional School District No. 6 (RSD6) and Litchfield Public Schools (LPS) grades K-4. This four-week program focused on academic and social-emotional enrichment activities. There were over 165+ participants, coming from 125+ families, whereby students were provided instruction and supervised activities by 25+ staff comprising of on-site coordinators, certified and classified staff, youth counselors and College Corp Partnership students. Mrs. Kennedy also shared attendance by grade and by week.

b. Climate Survey Preview

Mr. Leone also presented the Climate Survey Review based on a survey conducted in late April 2021. Some highlights of the presentation include high ratings of teachers and staff

having a strong commitment to engaging their students and making their classrooms a supportive environment, and for teachers and staff being enthusiastic about equity, diversity, and inclusion work within the district. Mr. Leone commented while results were positive, there are opportunities to improve in many areas. Mr. Leone outlined next level work that includes using the survey results as a baseline to develop the School Engagement Plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

c. Data Presentation Preview

The Data Presentation Preview has been tabled as the district is waiting for the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to allow public release of these results.

d. Public Act No. 19-12 – Inclusion of Black & Latino Studies (Update)

Mrs. Kennedy updated committee members on the state mandate to offer African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies. Provided to the committee members was an outline of the Semester 1 and Semester 2 units for this year long course elective. RSD6 and LPS are participants in this first year pilot of offering the course to district students. LPS will be piloting the program in the upcoming school year. RSD6 will not be running the course in the upcoming school year as students did not select this course as an elective. Mrs. Kennedy speculates that had the course been offered for a single semester, the likelihood of participation would have been greater as students find it difficult to work a year-long elective into their course load. The state does not allow schools to modify any portion of this course.

e. Global Read Aloud – One Book to Connect the World

Mrs. Kennedy reported on the *Global Read Aloud* project that was created in 2010 with the goal of one book to connect the world. The project runs in early October through November and is a once a year project. Litchfield Public Schools (LPS) have participated in the *Global Read Aloud* in the past. This year LPS will be doing a modified version of the read aloud with the text *Ground Zero* and have been connected with a school in Canada.

VII. Future Agenda Items  
Youth Survey Data

- VIII. Adjournment There being no further business to come before this committee, **Ms. Stone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem