

**East Granby Board of Education
Curriculum Subcommittee Minutes
November 13, 2024**

Welcome: The curriculum subcommittee meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Marjorie welcomed the subcommittee members to the meeting. Since she was at the Open Choice dinner in Hartford for our students in EG through the Choice program, along with a chosen local buddy from the students' classrooms, and all their parents, she showed the committee the fun the students were having with one another, while parents visited and got to know each other. There were games, food, and great conversations. Teacher representatives from each building circulated around the room. Students were thrilled to see their principals all attending.

Attendance: Present: Committee Chair, Lisa Griffin; Committee Member Amanda Cormier; BOE member Ricky Bortz; and Marjorie Light, Dir of Curriculum. Absent: Whitney Burns and Lynn Landolina.

Old Business:

- **Teacher Evaluation - Goal setting and personalized professional development** - Marjorie shared how the new state evaluation guidelines have each teacher create a PD plan for an individual or small group that focuses on the specific goal tied to student learning and achievement. Districts must ensure faculty members have dedicated PD time to accomplish this. In order to meet all the state requirements for professional development, the PDEC committee will need to look at increasing full and/or early dismissal PD days.

New Business:

- **Small grants from state supporting curriculum** Marjorie shared how small grants support our programming in East Granby. While the funding is small compared to other districts, EGPS is able to utilize it fully to enrich student learning and encourage a sense of belonging for all students attending EGPS. Some of the programs include: homework club at the middle and high school, STARBASE experience for Grade 5, the Seymour after school play, sports and interest clubs across the district, funding
- **Capstone Project - graduation requirement** - Marjorie explained how the State of CT had rescinded its Capstone requirement for graduating seniors. Currently, it is still a requirement for EGPS students, as it was adopted by the Board of Education *prior* to the state requirement. In order to change this, a motion would have to be made by the Board. Marjorie outlined how there is not a dedicated class for it, so it is given to the senior English teachers to incorporate it into class time. There are a large number of students who excel with this type of self-driven passion project, but for others who don't have support, struggle with core classes, or need focused time on particular skills, it can be a burden. The committee discussed the feasibility of having this be an elective, so students who want to pursue it may still do so. Marjorie reviewed her discussions with the superintendent, school counselors, principal, teachers, and IT on how this could move forward as an elective in the future. The BOE members said they would like to discuss discontinuing Capstone as a requirement this year, and begin the elective choice for all current seniors. Lisa Griffin asked what the next steps would be. Marjorie said the committee would need to bring it before the Board of Education for a vote. Lisa will ask that it be placed on the December agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Light
Director of Curriculum