

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING – CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018
THE SHERMAN SCHOOL - LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Vision Statement

**We enable all Sherman Students to become the best possible version of themselves.
We provide an environment where our children develop into empathetic, self-directed,
critical thinkers who don't give up when faced with challenges.**

A Curriculum Committee of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Enright on June 5, 2018 at 5:07 PM.

1. PRESENT:

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| For the Board: | Mrs. Diotte and Mrs. Enright |
| Administration: | Dr. Melendez and Mrs. Snowden |

2. DISCUSSED:

Discussion took place regarding Science Curriculum and NGSS. Dr. Corso and Mr. Rianhard attended an 8 day intensive workshop, the NGSX two part workshop sponsored by the Connecticut Science Center. Mrs. Snowden reports this was an excellent workshop. Specifically, part 1 of the workshop focused on philosophy on how NGSS should be taught and the second part of the workshop focused on writing of curriculum. Following a discussion with both Mr. Rianhard and Dr. Corso, Mrs. Snowden reports that they are still assessing value of utilizing textbooks as way of instruction as it is counter to philosophy activity based learning of NGSS and training received. Mrs. Snowden recognizes that curriculum needs to be outlined and appropriate assessments to measure instruction and learning. Summer curriculum work will focus on various curriculum options such as Mystery Science (an online subscription), Dimensions, Pearson and Foss. The K and 1st grade teachers attended a two day training session.

Mrs. Snowden reported that Dr. Corso is investigating a free online program which includes a unit on "Disruptions in Ecosystems" which looks vigorous and rich in its content.

Discussion took place on what Science will look like schedule and instruction wise for K-5th grade.

Discussion took place on further analysis of SBAC results. Mrs. Snowden reports that analysis will be done regarding individual needs vs. grade level needs, patterns identified and how this will translate into differentiation of instruction and necessary changes in curriculum. Mrs. Snowden reports this will be part of focus in summer work.

Mrs. Snowden reported that Professional Development will be provided regarding Big Ideas Math Program and how the program will be further infused in both the 8th Grade Math class and Algebra class, recognizing that the Algebra class does utilize Big Ideas as a resource to guide curriculum.

A discussion took place regarding title of Algebra class. Mrs. Snowden reports that title should not affect placement into 9th grade math selection. Mrs. Enright and group agreed that further data needs to be collected in this area, but everyone agreed that it is the distinction of Algebra vs 8th Grade Math that plays a role in determine 9th grade Math placement. Mrs. Enright pointed out that the pace, higher level applications and elements of Algebra 2 in the current Algebra curriculum mirrors the vigor of an honors class and that this is what is important for transition schools to recognize. Additionally, Mrs. Snowden reports she will further investigate 9th Math course selection options/criteria among the four transition high schools.

Mrs. Snowden indicated that data shows need for stronger phonics curriculum in K-2nd grades. The current curriculum needs to be supplemented with more phonics instruction.

3. ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned by Mrs. Enright at 5:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Themis Enright
Chair, Curriculum Committee
Sherman Board of Education