

**Pomfret Community School
Curriculum Committee
Minutes
January 22, 2020**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Pomfret Community School was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in the Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. Present when the meeting was called to order were Board members V. May, R. Incera, and L. Grossman. Also present were: S. Imschweiler, Principal, M. Galligan, Assistant Principal and S. Cullinan, Superintendent.

- Status of Curriculum Work 2019-2020

S. Imschweiler reported that Patricia Susla has spent 2 ½ days working with teachers in grades 3-5 teachers to evaluate Bridges for weaknesses and finding strategic points to integrate Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks and with grades 6-8 teachers to develop unit plans. There are two more professional Development days planned later this month and more will be scheduled if needed. It was reported that P. Susla will be ending her contractual arrangement with EASTCONN.

S. Imschweiler reported that R. Ericson and G. Garosshen have completed the Health Curriculum update by aligning units of study to the CT Health frameworks. These units of study are now being compiled into the curriculum document.

S. Imschweiler reported that Pomfret Community School has been informed of a grant from VMWare for \$6,000. Daniel Plouffe, Pomfret Community School parent, has reached his 12 year milestone working for VMWare and as result of his volunteer work VMWare will make a donation in his honor. Mr. Plouffe has chosen Pomfret Community School to be the recipient of this donation and requested that the funds be used for STEM. The plan is to use these funds to purchase additional Building Blocks of Science 3D kits for grades K-5. VMWare has previously awarded grants to Pomfret Community School in recognition of Mr. Plouffe's volunteer work.

Ellen Fuller, a student intern from the University of Connecticut has been working with A. Lameiro to update the Art curriculum. They will be meeting again on January 29 to continue this work. The arrangement with the University of Connecticut to provide this internship was made possible through the efforts of Board of Education member L. Grossman.

Revisions to the Social Studies curriculum have been postponed at this time. Gary Peterson, from EASTCONN, has been working with the grades 5-8 science and social studies teachers on “literacy in the content areas”. This work has pulled teachers from their classrooms several times this school year already and there are 4 more Professional Development Days scheduled to continue with this work.

- Social Emotional Learning

The Board of Education previously requested that a section on Social Emotional Learning be added to the Multi Year Plan. S. Imschweiler provided an overview of that work to date.

2015-2016 – Social/Emotional support programs included PBIS, Second Step, Peer Mediation, Lunch Bunch, and individual counseling.

2016-2017 – A Pilot of Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was implemented. This screening consists of 25 statements that are divided into 5 categories: Prosocial Behavior, Peer Problems, Hyperactivity, Conduct Problems, and Emotional Symptoms. Students rate statements as not true, somewhat true or certainly true.

2017-2018 – Pomfret Community School began whole school screening with the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). Data was shared with the teaching team and parents of any student who scored in the abnormal range and a plan was put in place for support. Responsive Classroom training for teachers that was focused on building relationships, morning meetings and advisory was implemented. An Advisory Period was created for grades 5-8. Staff workshops on supporting students with executive function disorders were also implemented.

2018-2019 – A Teacher book study on Growth Mindset was conducted. Monthly team meetings with the social worker and school psychologist were implemented to address social and/or behavioral concerns of any student. A Child Study Group addressing individual students' needs was also created.

2019-2020 – Conflict resolution and abuse prevention lessons were included in the Health Curriculum. The *Look for the Good Project* was introduced in the fall of 2019. This was a two week campaign focused on the power of gratitude. Pomfret Community School also introduced Professional Development for teachers on yoga and mindfulness in the classroom. As a follow up to the positivity and to build on the good deed of the Origami Crane folders: Emma Costa, Brady DeFarno, Grace Haney, Abby Houle, Michaela LaFlamme and Sarienna Goff, Pomfret Community School will be adding “Thankful Thursdays”. Each Thursday we will take a moment to record something we are thankful for to be added to the wall on the entrance to the cafeteria. Thankful Thursdays will begin on January 23, 2020.

- Staffing Changes

For the 2020-2021 school year the fourth grade homerooms will be reduced from three to two. That group of students will move to three 5th grade homerooms for the 2020-2021 school year and three 6th grade homerooms for the 2021-2022 school year. The teacher added to this grouping will teach 5th and 6th grade writing for a two year span.

- Budget Related Items 2020-2021

There currently is a proposed increase in the math materials line that reflects purchasing Open Resources math workbooks for students in grades 6-8. An additional increase in software is Newsela. This site provides access to 10,000 texts with everything published at 5 different reading levels to provide access to content regardless of reading level.

- Items as Needed

S. Inschwiler distributed an updated copy of Professional Development activities for the 2019-2020 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 P.M.