

# ***New London Public Schools***

New London, Connecticut

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Curriculum Standards Development and Implementation Committee**

#### ***Meeting Minutes***

**Date:** July 15, 2008

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Central Office Conference Room

Chairman/Facilitator: Mr. William Morse

<b><u>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>ATTENDANCE STATUS</u></b>
Mr. William Morse, Chairman/Facilitator and BOE Member	PRESENT
Mr. Anthony Nolan, BOE Member	ABSENT
Mr. James Pearce, BOE Member	PRESENT

<b><u>BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF, CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS, OTHERS</u></b>	<b><u>ATTENDANCE STATUS</u></b>
Ms. Margaret Bucaram, HS Representative and HS Teacher	PRESENT
Mrs. Christine Carver, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools	PRESENT
Ms. Joanna Brother, NLEA Co-President and MS Teacher	PRESENT

#### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Morse welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **II. Roll Call**

A quorum was present and noted for the record.

Please refer to the above listed attendance chart on Page 1 for roll call status per member.

**Motion:** To move Agenda Item IV.D out of agenda sequence and address/place it before Agenda Item IV.A.

Motion by: Chairman Morse

Seconded by: Mr. Pearce

**Voice Vote:** The vote was unanimous. **Motion Carried.** (2-0)

**2 - In Favor** – Chairman Morse - Board Member Pearce

### III. Approval of the minutes from May 5, 2008

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from May 5, 2008.

Motion by: Mr. Pearce

Seconded by: Chairman Morse

**Voice Vote:** The vote was unanimous. **Motion Carried.** (2-0)

**2 - In Favor** – Chairman Morse - Board Member Pearce

**0 – Opposed, 0 – Abstentions.**

### IV. New Business

#### A) MEASURING ACHIEVEMENT – CAMBRIDGE REPORT – Mrs. Carver

##### **Attachments:**

- 1) **Evaluating Initiatives and Accountability**
- 2) **Monthly Report 2007/08**
- 3) **Quarterly Visits (May 21, 2008)**
- 4) **District-Wide Improvement Plan 2007-2010 (June 11, 2008)**

Mrs. Carver gave an overview of the memorandum/exhibit which was submitted in the agenda packages.

Overview items addressed in the presentation were:

- Cambridge Concerns: \***Two themes** / 1. **How do we evaluate new initiatives? What mechanisms are we developing before, during and after we initiate new initiatives?**

When we institute new programs, indicators will be developed and reviewed by the district data team (*DELTA*.) Indicators include student attendance data, discipline data, reports on quarterly assessments, staff and parent survey information and annual assessments (*CMT & CAPT*) and these indicators will then be aligned to the District Improvement Plan. This will be presented to the Board of Education in summative reports. All progress will be shared with the public at the Board of Education Data Fairs which will be held quarterly.

- 2. **How do we monitor strategies of leadership within our schools and the quality of work within the classrooms? How are principals monitoring and looking at what is happening in our classrooms; in terms of bringing students along and advancing their skills so they achieve at higher levels.**

The following mechanisms are currently in place for leadership/building monitoring:

- **Central Office Learning Walks** – Bi-Annually by a central office team.
- **Learning Walks with the Literacy Supervisor and Literacy Coaches.**
- **Monthly Reports** – Attendance, Discipline, 504, Child Study, Planning and Placement Team and Data Team minutes.

- **Administrative Council Reports** – Building Principals and Teaching and Learning Committee
- **Coaching** – All content areas, Connecticut Center for School Change and State Department of Education
- **Consultant visitations** – Open Court, Success for All

Strategies which will be implemented in 2008-09 will be:

- **Quarterly Visits** - By the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent
- **Bi-Monthly meetings of the DELTA (District Data Team)**
- **Quarterly Data Fairs**
- **Other reports as specified in the Accountability Calendar, Coaching, Literacy Walks, Central Office Learning Walks, Administrative Council Reports, Monthly Reports, and Data Team Meetings will continue.**

A “*draft*” copy of the Monitoring Strategies protocol/guidelines were distributed in the agenda package for review.

Mrs. Carver also noted we are looking for “student friendly” expectations which should/will be posted in each classroom. Children must be able to understand what is expected. Guides could be visuals with pictures. Each building will have some form of data displays. This may vary from building to building.

Every item within our new plan will force an “**evidence based**” process which will create a swift accountability factor.

## **B) YEAR END – SINGLE GENDER REPORT – Mrs. Carver**

### ***Attachment:***

#### **1) Grade Six Single Gender Classes – Interim Report**

### **C) MS SPANISH / BJDMS ASSESSMENTS**

#### **Verbal Presentation – BJDMS Representative**

In the absence of the MS representative; Mrs. Carver highlighted the Grade Six Single Gender Classes report.

Some obstacles we encountered with this initiative were:

- Problems with finding substitutes. (*This is a district and state-wide problem.*)
- The role models should have been both male and female teachers. (*Staff certifications and budgetary constraints were revolving issues.*)
- Parents are not requesting sending their children to a single sex class; despite heavy recruitment.
- Data showed we did not see huge changes or improvements.
- Social aspects at the middle school age level were also an issue.
- No MS single sex classes are planned for 2008-09.

Discussions revolved around the possibility of starting a pilot in the 5th grade and have a progressive follow through to middle school grade levels. This was a well received idea we may visit in the future.

#### **D) HS FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

##### **Verbal Presentation – HS Representative**

Mrs. Carver revisited the questions from the last meeting which revolved around the course syllabuses and the inquiry regarding enrollment.

The course syllabuses were forwarded to Mr. Morse by Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Morse requested these syllabuses be posted to the website/online by the opening of school. These posting should be a priority task.

Why do more students take French 1 and Spanish 1; and then we see a drastic registration drop off after that? Continuity is an issue of concern. Our students need to reap the benefits of cultural languages.

Ms. Margaret Bucaram was present and acted as the HS representative. Ms. Bucaram noted that “student engagement” is an issue and gave a brief synopsis of changes which are being incorporated to address this issue. The “**DESCUBAE**” Program is being introduced as a new learning tool. We have two teachers with extensive experience in the foreign language field. We are working on writing a new curriculum. Our plans also include building graphic organizers which will be “*hookers*” to the overall learning experience and we will focus more on the writing aspect as well. Placement of native Spanish speakers was also an area we continue to improve. We have added advanced placement classes to accommodate those students. These advanced placement classes have been very well received by our students.

Mr. Morse noted that we really need to investigate and try to incorporate acquiring a Dual Language District Department Head. The estimated cost for this is \$6,700.00 per FY. Even with the budgetary constraints we are facing; Mr. Morse felt this would be a wise investment and would also assure a smooth transition for a cohesive interfaced curriculum between the middle school and the high school.

Mrs. Carver will review contractual language; budgetary issues and the possibility of making a Dual Language District Department Head come to fruition. We will add this as an agenda item exhibit/discussion topic at our next meeting which is scheduled for September 16, 2008.

#### **V. Comments from Citizens / Public**

There were no comments from citizens or members of the public.

## VI. Setting of Future Business

Some discussion/agenda item topics and recommendations for our next meeting were:

- Feedback from Dr. Clouet regarding the inquiry of the acquiring a Dual Language District Department Head (*Estimated at \$6,700.00 – FY Stipend*)
- CommPACT SCHOOL – Presentation
- Comparisons from other Districts – AYP Targeted Districts
- Presentation from MS Spanish Teacher - Course Design

**Our next meeting will be scheduled for:**

**DATE:** September 16, 2008

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Central Office Conference Room

## VII. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Morse

Seconded by: Mr. Pearce

**Voice Vote:** The vote was unanimous. **Motion Carried.** (2-0)

**2 - In Favor** – Chairman Morse - Board Member Pearce

**0 – Opposed, 0 – Abstentions.**

Respectfully submitted by:

*Marie Smith*, Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools