A meeting of the Curriculum Committee took place on October 15, 2018 in the Board’s Meeting Room on the second floor of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by Karen Pacelli, Chairwoman of the Curriculum Committee. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM and opened with a pledge to the flag.

COMMITTEE
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Pacelli, Chairwoman
Rosa Richardson
Rosemary Russo

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Guthrie
Patrick Leigh
Susan Walker

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Brendan Carew

REPORTS
Dr. Druzolowski said we are having science because they had the new standards last time and the curriculum wasn’t quite finished. The curriculum is being used throughout the buildings and rewrites are still taking place. Raffaela Fronc gave a presentation on the new standards and the implications for teaching and learning.

Raffaela passed out information to the board and gave a brief overview. In 2015 the State adopted NGSS and the process started. Since then a few things have changed dates
have shifted, testing has started, our plan was moved around a lot so lots of things have happened in the last three years. Why is science changing so much? The way of teaching science is based now on the five E’s of instruction and NGSS is based on the five E instructional model. Three pages from the presentation are being put on the website. They started with grades 6, 7, and 8 years ago and things have changed since then based on new learning. All elementary teachers this year were trained on the five E model and high school teachers have been trained and grades 5 and 8 also. Anyone who teaches science in the district has been exposed to this. When we started the process we were very fortunate that we had our rest center with a facilitator that worked with us and we developed a five year plan. Based on what the state has done and the requirements we had to change the plan multiple times. We are actually ahead of the plan because starting this year all students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be taking NGSS so we had to switch things around because originally the time line was later. The important piece of this is where we are right now and what have we done. A discussion ensued about what resources were purchased for the various science subjects, what resources are currently being reviewed, and the implementation timeline to 2020. The Science Facilitator Program for the elementary schools was discussed. In each of the elementary schools they have a science facilitator and Carrigan has two facilitators. K – 2nd grade students go once in a 10 day cycle, 3rd and 4th two to three times in a 10 day cycle. We have the science facilitator in grades K-6. In the middle of last year we started re-writing the 5th grade and implemented it this year. We should be done by the end of December and this summer we will spend time revising and realigning everything we have done for 5th grade and it is a great 5th grade team. Dr. Druzolowski said that STEM classes are very closely aligned to this. When you see STEM operating in classrooms you understand how exciting it is for kids because it makes sense; it is not just language, but language is very important and they start remembering those words and learn how to read sentences because now they understand the context. We are also engineering part as mathematics. In mathematics we want to see the same type of application of information so you understand why you do algebra. We are all getting better at mathematics because it is not rocket science it is just application; how do you use this in your daily work. As we move through this we will see a lot of revisions to a lot of different curriculum that really links with it. A further discussion took place and questions were asked by board members and responded to.

Karen Pacelli asked for a motion to close the meeting.
Chairwoman Russo made the motion
Rosa Richardson seconded the motion
The meeting ended at 6:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary