

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2025

Present: Cindy Luty, Chair, Deborah Grabarek, Ray Bernier, Christopher Pickett, Michele Han

Public Comment:

A letter was received from Jill Keith which is included in these minutes in its entirety.

Old Business:

1. The Social Studies curriculum will be under review in the near future and the focus on geography will be included in the discussion .
2. The collaboration between Preston and North Stonington has been a successful endeavor. Teachers from each district, grades 1 and 3 specifically, were pleased with the exchanges of successful practices with regard to the Into Reading series that both districts now use. It was also enlightening to compare differences between small and large districts in terms of personnel and support.

New Business:

1. **Assessment Analysis: state assessment audit**
We provided the state with an audit of all the assessments we use with a few edits required. We will now wait to hear back from them regarding any guidance and what direction they are going to send us in going forward. The state is looking to see what additional assessments we are using beyond those that are required in each district . They are interested in finding out how much instructional time may be lost due to the time needed to administer the assessments. They also want to make sure that the assessments are meaningful and academic.
2. **Social Studies Curriculum:**
We are in the beginning, exploratory stage of looking to make changes in the whole system with regard to the Social Studies Curriculum that was

implemented in 2015. The state has newer guidelines now which we will look at and make needed adjustments to our present curriculum. One of the areas being considered is a greater focus on geography related to the standards.

3. Pacing Guides:

We are working on pacing guides to support teachers with an eye towards more completion of material as well as responses to student needs. With the new programs in literacy and math, it is important to support the teachers and give them time to feel comfortable with the new material. We need to balance between student mastery of the content and getting through all the material covering the standards through the year.

4. District Professional Learning Plan:

There is a need for a robust plan for how to use professional learning time as the year goes on. Identifying the needs of the teachers is necessary to provide appropriate professional development to help them be more equipped to do what is required of them. A more concrete plan needs to be in place that serves as an outline for the whole school year.

5. NAEYC:

Staff members who were involved in the grueling process of earning NAEYC accreditation for our preschool program will be recognized at our Board of Education meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025. We are grateful for all their hard work and commitment to the process.

Adjournment: Grabarek/Luty



Fwd: Curriculum Committee Meeting, 2/28

1 message

Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>
To: Cynthia Luty <hfb95@aol.com>

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 9:10 AM

Public Comment for today's Curriculum Meeting. I will print out a copy for you.

Gloria Homiski
Executive Administrative Assistant
Preston BOE
1 Route 164
Preston, CT 06365

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jill Keith** <jillskeith@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 7:05 AM
Subject: Curriculum Committee Meeting, 2/28
To: Gloria Homiski <homiskig@prestonschools.org>

Good morning, Gloria!

The following is my public comment for today's Curriculum Committee Meeting:

- Is it possible to provide a virtual option for the Curriculum Committee meetings? Given they've been scheduled during traditional work hours, parents and staff might be able to participate virtually. In my case, I can't attend in person today as I've had a fever.
- What are Preston's high ability/gifted screening and identification procedures?
I saw the topic was raised during the November Curriculum Committee Meeting, but it's not on today's agenda. It appears no new procedures have been released since the original ones Ivy did, which had a typo in screening/identification standard scores.
- Would Preston consider a proposal of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model for your Professional Learning Plan? This research-based model has been proven to increase schoolwide achievement.

Thank you for your consideration.

For reference, I included Preston's 0% identification percentages along with what's permissive.

2 attachments

The screenshot shows a data table with multiple columns and rows. The columns include years from 2012 to 2024. The rows represent different categories, likely related to gifted and talented identification. The data points are numerical values, some of which are highlighted in yellow, indicating specific trends or values of interest.

Preston - GT ID rate history, 2025.JPG
98K



CT GT rates, 2025.JPG
136K