

School Committee Curriculum Subcommittee

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

8:30 AM-10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Curriculum Subcommittee Members Present: Barbara Scotto (Chair), Helen Charlupski, and Suzanne Federspiel.

Absent: Susan Wolf Ditkoff.

Other School Committee Members Present: Sharon Abramowitz.

Staff Present: Nicole Gittens, Mary Brown, Vicki Milstein, and Joanna Lieberman.

1) Approval of Curriculum Subcommittee Minutes

On a motion of Ms. Scotto and seconded by Ms. Federspiel, the Curriculum Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

2) Planning for Kindergarten Classroom Visit

The members of the Subcommittee discussed what they were interested in seeing in the various kindergarten classrooms. In particular, they are looking to see if the teaching is developmentally appropriate. They particularly want to see whether teachers are using play to integrate reading, writing, and math into the curriculum and whether the teaching of reading, writing and math has become more structured than in the past. Currently the state does not recommend a reading level that students should reach at the end of kindergarten. The Subcommittee members are hoping to see all subject areas and to note the atmosphere of the classrooms and the engagement of the students.

The Subcommittee discussed the importance of making specific observations backed up with evidence. In discussing their observations, the suggestion was made that we use the language typical of Instructional Rounds in which the speaker makes comments which included evidence. For example, the speaker might say, "I saw _____, and in response, the teacher _____. The student's response was _____.

3) Dates for Kindergarten Visits

The kindergarten visits are tentatively scheduled for May 23, 2019, from 8:30am to 1:00pm.