

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:00 AM

Via Zoom - Dial In: +646-558-8656; Code: 515803, 24 School Road, Weston, CT
06883-1623

I. Call to Order

II. Gauging Progress Presentation and Discussion

A. Assessment Framework

B. Multiple Measures

C. Current Progress

III. Math Program Updates and Discussion

A. Math Placement

B. Math Intervention

IV. Follow-up curricular questions regarding any budget-related items

V. Approval of December meeting minutes

K-5 Program Updates

December 9, 2020

K-5 Program Updates

- Math
- Science
- Literacy
- K-2 Spanish



Math Renewal - *Math in Focus* 2020

2020's Improvements and Enhancements:

- Student textbook has been integrated into consumable workbook (no extra cost).
- Improved digital platform and resources for both students and teachers
- New features such as performance tasks and STEAM projects, online practice games and videos
- Online assessment data and reporting
- Teacher slides and much improved teacher notes
- Improved CCSS alignment

Maintains:

- Singapore Math's Research-Based Pedagogy
- Highest rating by ESSA for math programs

Math in Focus 2020 - Renewal Costs

2020 Edition - Six Year Digital and Print Licenses for Students and Teachers

2020-21	Grade 5	\$30,998
	Grades 6 and 8	\$42,412
2021-22	Grades 3 and 4	\$55,921 (includes shipping and comp. remote PD)
	Grade 7	\$20,412
2022-23	Grades K - 2	~ \$77,510 (Estimate based on 21-22 price and enrollment)

PL costs: MiF consultants ~ \$3,000 per day. Most PL will be CIL led.

K-5 Science



- **Program modified for the unique and changing schedules, as well as safety protocols, of the 20-21 school year.**
- **Instructional time prioritization of Math and Literacy, while providing as much science experience as feasible.**
- **All grades will require some compacting of content and practices.**
- **2021-22 may be the first time Grades Three and Four fully teach their final unit of the updated curriculum.**



K-5 Literacy

Components of a Comprehensive Literacy Program
Include Explicit and Differentiated Instruction in:

- ❖ Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
- ❖ Phonics Instruction
- ❖ Comprehension Instruction- both Literal and Inferential
- ❖ Oral Reading Fluency



Professional Learning

- ❖ **Continuing our partnership with Teachers College**
 - In addition to consulting, this partnership provides us with a multitude of resources, including but not limited to:
 - Updates to curricular units
 - Planning and assessment tools
 - Instructional tools
 - Student resources
- ❖ **Ongoing embedded coaching with CILs**

Assessments

- ❖ **The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System is designed to be administered 3 times a year**
- ❖ **Between these assessment windows, teachers need additional means to assess ongoing growth and progress with reading accurately, fluently, and with adequate comprehension.**
 - **At Hurlbutt, we have used the Teachers College Running Records- these assessments have recently been updated, which would necessitate purchasing new books**

K-2 Spanish

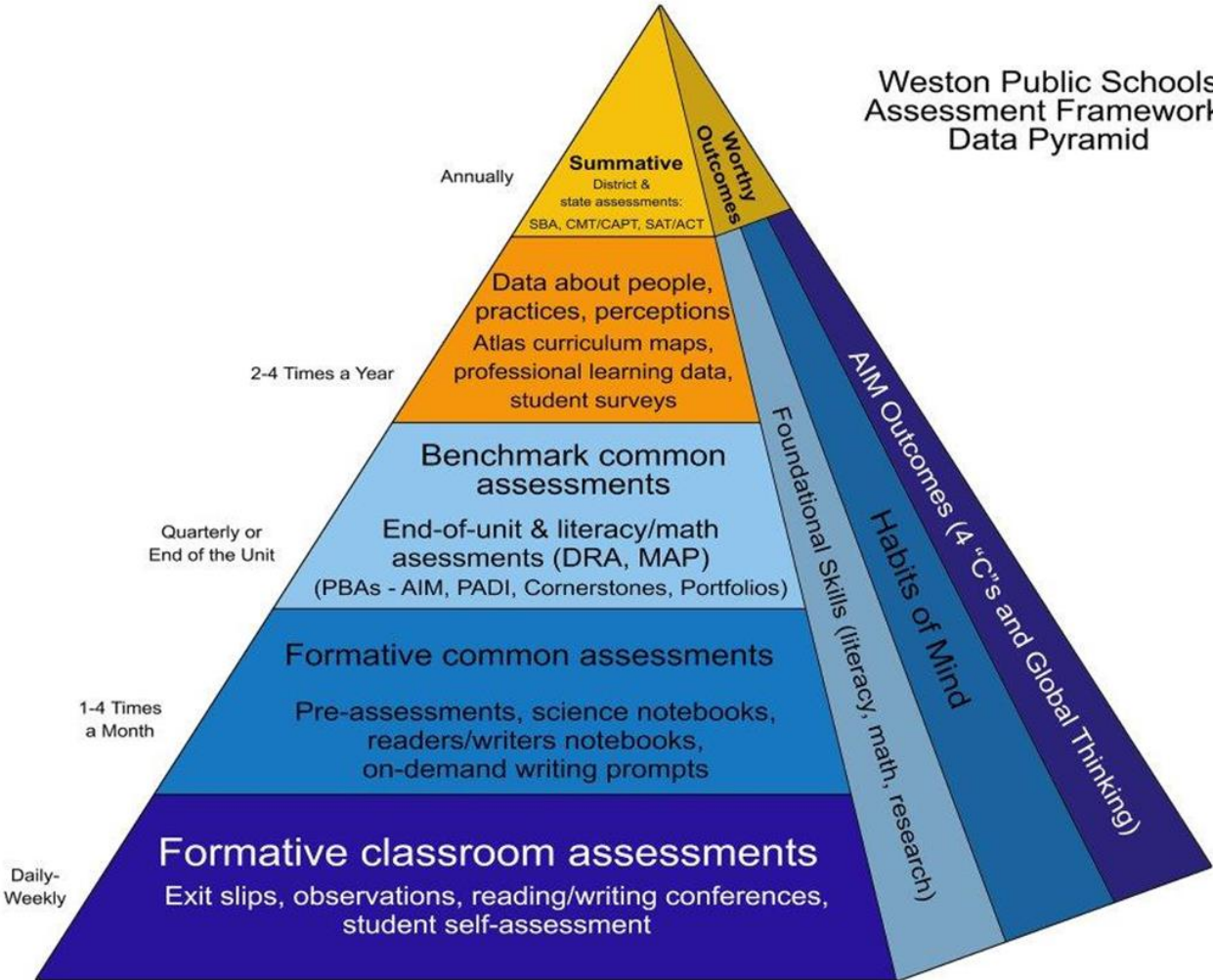
K-2 Spanish program was suspended for the 2020-21 school year due to staffing and scheduling constraints. The current recommendation is to suspend the K-2 program for one more year and then bring it back the following year.

2021-22	Pros	Cons
Suspend Program Again Next Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Time re-allocated for an additional 40 minutes of core academic time weekly.● Additional time for core would be beneficial following pandemic year.● Streamlines scheduling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Curricular impact for students beginning Spanish later.● The need to modify curriculum due to the vertical implications.

New Report Offers Clearest Picture Yet Of Pandemic Impact On Student Learning

Please click on this [link](#) to access the NPR report on Pandemic Impact on Student Learning and brief 3-minute podcast.

Weston Public Schools
Assessment Framework-
Data Pyramid



Based on Love, N.B. (2008). The Data Coach's Guide to Improving Learning for All Students: Unleashing the Power of Collaborative Inquiry. Sage Publications.

Curriculum Committee Meeting

December 9, 2020 9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Present Committee Members:

Taffy Miller (Chairperson), Hillary Koyner, Gina Albert

Present Administration:

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent; Kenneth Crow, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Wolak, WHS Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; Carolyn Vinton, CIL K-5 Math & Science; Alex Bluestein, CIL K-5 ELA & Social Studies; Andrea Noble; CIL K-5 ELA & Social Studies; Mercedes Fernandes, CIL K-12 World Language; Sydney Girardi, K-12 Visual Arts; Nicholas Torres, CIL 6-8 Social Studies; Christine Cincotta, CIL 6-8 English Language Arts

Members of the Public:

Anthony Pesco, Ruby Hedge, Kristana Esslinger

2. Presentation and discussion of K-5 programs

Discussion:

Carolyn Vinton presented on the K-5 Math in Focus renewal program.

- The roll out of the program is over a three year period. In this school year, (2020-21) grade 5 Math in Focus six-year online and print renewal was implemented; in 2021-22, grades 3 and 4 will be implemented; and in 2022-23 grades K-2.
- The renewals include six years of the digital platform for both teachers and students as well as yearly print consumables at no extra cost. Although the six-year cost is upfront, it is a significant savings for the district over time.
- Committee discussed whether the assessments that are built into the platform could be used in place of NWEA. The cost of NWEA is based on the number of students whether it is used for reading, math, science, etc.

Mrs. Vinton also discussed the K-5 Science program.

- The science program has been modified due to the unique 2020-21 school year; however, the NGSS curriculum is being fully implemented.
- Instructional time has been modified to give priority to math and literacy while providing as much science experience as possible.
- Hands-on experiences have also been modified due to safety protocols. Teachers and paras are working creatively to provide these experiences.

Andrea Noble and Alex Bluestein discussed the K-5 Literacy program.

- Ms. Noble outlined the components of Weston's comprehensive K-5 Literacy program, which includes instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics instruction (Foundations), reading comprehension instruction and oral reading fluency.

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- The professional learning partnership with Teachers College is ongoing and provides a multitude of resources for teaching. In-person consulting with Teachers College has been suspended for this year for safety reasons and will resume next year.
- The literacy program assessments provide the means to personalize and differentiate instruction. The Fountas & Pinnell system provides benchmark assessment, but interim assessments are just as important. The department will look to purchase additional leveled books for the interim assessments over the next few years.

Mercedes Fernandes presented on the K-5 Spanish program.

- K-2 Spanish instruction was suspended this year for budgetary reasons. The District may suspend the program for one more year in order to focus on core subjects.
- Committee members discussed the merits of early foreign language immersion and would prefer to reinstate the program. The budgetary implications will be brought forward when the FY 2022 budget is presented to the full board.

3. Presentation and discussion of WHS new course proposals

Discussion:

- All three courses presented are budget and FTE neutral.

Nick Torres presented on new social studies course, *The American Tapestry: Multiculturalism in the United States*.

- Proposed course is one semester (.5 credits) and is focused on the most contemporary and pervasive issues related to racial, ethnic and gender identity issues. The course will give students a forum to study these issues academically.
- Rather than textbooks, the resources chosen are paperback books. These books are focused on young people as change makers.

Christine Cincotta presented on a new English course, *Voices from the Edge*.

- The proposed course is an elective one-semester course that encourages students to study diverse voices through texts that “mirror” and reflect on their own identity, as well as “window” texts that allow them to gain insight into the identities of others.

Sydney Girardi presented on a new visual arts course, *3D Art & Design*.

- The proposed new course combines current 3D course offerings in order to better serve the student population.
- The course will be an exploratory course in the foundations of 3D design. Students will learn a variety of 3D building techniques such as ceramics, subtractive sculpture and jewelry techniques, pottery wheel, and bas tile relief.

4. Follow up regarding WHS Statistical Report

Discussion:

- Dr. Craw gave an overview of the District assessments framework.
- A more in depth discussion will take place at the January Curriculum Committee meeting regarding the SAT, ACT and AP scores.

5. Approval of November 2020 Minutes

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Motion Passed: With a motion by Hillary Koyner and second by Taffy Miller, the November 2020 minutes were approved.

3 Yeas - 0 Nays.

6. Other curricular issues

Discussion:

Ms. Miller made a note to discuss VDL Survey results at the January meeting.

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

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Special Curriculum Committee Meeting

December 18, 2020 9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Present Committee Members:

Taffy Miller (Chairperson), Hillary Koyner, Gina Albert

Present Administration:

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent; Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Tracy Edwards, Director of PPS; Lisa Wolak, WHS Principal; Meredith Starzyk, WHS Director of Counseling; Christine Cincotta, 6-8 English Language Arts CIL

Members of the Public:

Anthony Pesco, Ruby Hedge

2. Presentation and discussion of WHS Alternative Pathways

Discussion:

Administrators presented the Alternative Pathways program to the Committee.

- The program is designed to replace the Effective School Solutions program currently in place at WHS. The administration was concerned that ESS students were struggling academically and were failing to meet the minimum credit requirements to graduate on time.
- Alternative Pathways provides an opportunity to integrate the program into the fabric of WHS by providing a constellation of services to support students with complex social emotional and behavioral needs.
- Schedules are built to integrate students on an individual basis and support the four core academic areas.
- An Alternative Pathways social worker will be the coordinator of the program; CILs will provide the academic support, which will be part of their instructional time.
- The counseling and academic support will not be at the expense of the student body.
- The next steps are to map out the structure of the program and map out the transition from ESS.

3. Other curricular issues

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano