

**CORRECTED
MINUTES
5/14/09****TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES/MOTIONS**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 48 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	Board of Education Curriculum Committee
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	April 29, 2009
LOCATION	Training/Conference Room
DATE OF MEETING	April 30, 2009
TIME MEETING STARTED	6:03 p.m.
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Jo-Anne Booth, Recording Secretary
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING

1. Rene (Skip) Rivard	2. Catherine Vargas
3. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar	4. Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan
5. William MacDonald (Chairman of Board of Education)	6. Nadine Bell (Bd. of Ed.)
7. Mary Hogan (Library Director) (Entered at 6:05 p.m.)	8. Principal Mario Almeida
9. Various teachers, parents and students of the Summer Reading Committee	10. Darlene Brown (Coordinator of Language Arts)

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 2 QUORUM PRESENT Yes No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to bring forward the Summer Reading Proposal to the full Board of Education this evening (for its meeting) for approval. (Chairman Charles Wisnioski was absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. (Chairman Charles Wisnioski was absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:16 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____.

Town of Rocky Hill
Board of Education
Curriculum Committee Meeting Working Notes
April 30, 2009

A Curriculum Committee meeting of the Rocky Hill Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 30, 2009 in the training /conference room. Rene (Skip) Rivard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present was: Catherine Vargas. Also present were William MacDonald (Chairman of Bd. of Ed.), Nadine Bell (Bd. of Ed.), Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar, Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan, Darlene Brown (Coordinator of Language Arts), Principal Mario Almeida, Mary Hogan (Library Director) (Entered at 6:05 p.m..) and various teachers, parents and students of the Summer Reading Committee.

Those absent: Chairman Charles Wisnioski.

1. Summer Reading Program

Superintendent Dr. Villar said at the last meeting of this Committee, the Summer Reading Proposal was discussed. They were asked to develop some additional information as well as a flow chart. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan returned to the Summer Reading Committee and they revisited the plan. This was put together in a more concise description.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Assistant Superintendent Hourigan to go through the salient points of this proposal. After a discussion of this tonight, Superintendent Dr. Villar said this Committee would be asked for a motion to move this to the full Board of Education.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said the revised Summer Reading Proposal was in the Board of Education packets that the members had already received. The Summer Reading Committee met on April 20, 2009 and they went over some of the points that had been raised at the last Curriculum Committee meeting. They added the flow chart that had been suggested.

The Summer Reading Committee felt very strongly that the focus should still continue to be on the positive aspects of summer reading. They want to have children read a minimum of two selected books but they also want to try to encourage and recognize those students who read more than that in a variety of ways. They would like to have the genres of the upcoming year in the list of the suggested books for summer reading. With regards to accountability, they would like to keep the parent sign-off. They would like to notify the parents by mail about this program. They would like students to not only self select the books but they would also like their responses. They are going to encourage creativity as to how the students are going to share what they read. The students will be able to do a variety of different things when they meet with their homeroom advisors. Some of the various ways the students could respond to what they read and ways they could share with their homeroom advisors what they read could be poems, songs and plays, etc. Advisors will log in to see who participated in the program and what their responses were so they can track and see how the participation is.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said the Summer Reading Committee would like to create excitement about summer reading this year. They would like to do this at all of the levels but specifically at the high school and they would like to do something at the high school that shows that reading is important.

They would like to invite a local personality and a local personality's name was mentioned. They thought maybe they could get this particular person as a surprise guest to come to an assembly and talk about the importance of summer reading in his own special way. They would also have Student Council Representatives involved. They want to encourage healthy competition and they would like to recognize individual students as well as homerooms or maybe the class of freshmen against the class of sophomores, etc. The goal is to drum up enthusiasm. They also want to provide some nice selections of books with the help of the library as to books that teachers and peers, etc. are recommending but also leave it wide open so that students can read about something they are interested in.

Mr. Rivard asked the students who were present at this meeting if they are excited about this. The students said they are. Mr. Rivard asked them why they are. Pooja Shah said this is something new and the old plan hasn't worked. This will allow them to have more opportunity to choose what they want to read. Outside of school, they never get input back from other students with regards to what they have to say about the books and they never get to share with anyone else. She thinks this new Summer Reading Program will open up so many doors to a variety of discussions and they will learn about other students as well as about themselves.

Manuela Silvestre said she was an avid reader. She didn't do the Summer Reading Program even though she read a lot of books during the summer. Recommendations of books is a good idea but it makes it more interesting to them if they can choose books. They can get excited about this. She thinks the class competition is a great incentive. Mr. Rivard asked Manuela Silvestre why she didn't do the Summer Reading Program. Manuela Silvestre said she had an AP History course and had to do summer work for that. She does reading outside of school for pleasure.

Mrs. Vargas asked if the advisors are going to be the homeroom teachers. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said they are. Mr. MacDonald asked if it wouldn't be optional if the student wanted to have someone else as their advisor who has the same interest as they do. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said they could but logistically they weren't certain how they could have eight hundred students pick who they want to go to. Mrs. Vargas said the default is the homeroom teacher. Mrs. Tabshey said the homeroom teacher is the advisor and they will take the student to the next level where they need to be. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said if this is successful then they can tweak it a little more and they might be able to come up with a way for children to select someone.

Mrs. Vargas gave an example of what the local personality could do. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan is hoping the students will get excited about this if all of the different options are shown to them in June and explained thoroughly.

Mrs. Bell thinks the entire Summer Reading Committee has done an amazing job of honing in on what she believes the true spirit of the Summer Reading Program should be. She thinks and hopes that they will see a much higher level of participation as well as greater satisfaction from all of the children. She gave kudos to everyone who put in all of the work.

Mrs. Tabshey thinks everyone from the Board of Education members to the members of the Committees were all looking for the same goal. A new way is just trying to be found to implement something that grabs the attention and gets the children motivated.

They all tried to think of what the best way would be to do this. It is not who is right or who is wrong but it is the same main goal.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to bring forward the Summer Reading Proposal to the full Board of Education this evening (for its meeting) for approval. (Chairman Charles Wisnioski was absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this was voted on, Mr. Rivard said that understanding this is a work in progress and that they will be looking at it from year to year, it is good to have the parents sign off on this with regards to accountability. He asked everyone if they would consider having the students sign off on this too in the future. Everyone thought this was a good idea.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. (Chairman Charles Wisnioski was absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____