



January 18, 2017

TO: Members of the Educational Evaluation Committee  
Town Clerk

**Educational Evaluation Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Superintendent's Large Conference Room**

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Present: Colleen Rix, Sandra Berardy, Dan Boisvert, Carrie Baxter, Laurie Pallin

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm by Chair Carrie Baxter.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Writing Project Program, Grades K-8:
  - Laurie explained the work of the ELA curriculum committee to review the Writing Project pilot. Based upon this pilot, it is the recommendation of the ELA committee that we move to district-wide implementation of the Teachers College Writing Project, however the timing of this change has not been decided. It is likely this will come to E&E for Board approval later this spring. It was requested that the E&E committee members be provided with resources about the program for review including the Units of Study, the link to online resources, and the option to visit a classroom.
4. Palmer/MHS- Exploring Computer Science Course
  - Laurie described the grant which she is currently applying for which would enable us to offer a new course at MHS and Palmer-
    - Exploring Computer Science – state awarded, federally funded grant
    - National curriculum written with the intent of increasing equity and access to computer coding; by-product is improved math scores
    - General Ed class for grades 9-12
    - 6 Units – all based on open-ended projects, PBL type approach
    - Units 1 and 2 on problem solving
    - Unit 3 – programming, html
    - Unit 4 – programming, scratch (coding – stories, animations, games)
    - Unit 5 – Use of “big data” – analyze the huge systems of data which computers collect
    - Unit 6 – Robotics – 25 simple robots
    - Training, teacher time, materials, all software – all paid for; school needs to provide computers
    - Training would involve 1 week in summer, 4 Saturdays during year, monthly on-line meeting, two school visits to support
    - District must commit to offer the class for two years
    - Currently in use at CREC, Hartford, East Lyme, Wallingford, W. Hartford
    - Full year course, 1 credit.

- No state certification for programming – any teacher can be trained to teach the course

E&E committee members responded enthusiastically to this idea. It will come back to E&E this spring if the grant proposal is approved.

5. Future Agenda Items:

1. Are we promoting Three Rivers nuclear training program as an option for our students?
2. Follow up reports on implementation of courses approved by the BOE last year  
e.g.: Follow up on Guitar Ensemble and Film and History course
3. Report on the K-12 vertical articulation work in music
4. Palmer Report on the academic achievement of students (assessment results and sample student work.

6. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 5:56 pm

Proposed by: Colleen Rix

Seconded by: Dan Boisvent

Vote: Carried unanimously; (vote 4-0)