TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION 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	November 5, 2026	
LOCATION	Moser Media Center	
DATE OF MEETING	November 12, 2026	
TIME MEETING STARTED	6:30 p.m.	
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Sandy Mal, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools	
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	☐ Yes	☒ No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	☐ Yes	☒ No

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:

Ms. Kristen Dudanowicz (Committee Chairperson)	Ms. Thomas Cosker
Ms. Amber Tucker	Ms. Jessica Loffredo (Board Chair)
Also present: Mr. Jay Chhabra, Dr. Mark Zito, Superintendent, Ms. Wendy Durand, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Mary Schaefer, Language Arts Coordinator, Mr. Jason Maziarz, Principal (GMS), Mr. Brian White, Incoming Superintendent (Effective January 1, 2027)	

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 2 QUORUM PRESENT ☒ Yes ☐ No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ms. Kristen Dudanowicz at 6:45 p.m.

Presentation: Ms. Wendy Durand & Dr. Mary Schaefer

2027–2028 Program of Studies: Career Pathways & New Course Proposals

Ms. Durand reviewed proposed expansions to the high school Program of Studies for the 2027–2028 school year, focusing on aligning high school offerings with career clusters and expanding dual enrollment opportunities.

- **Current Career Pathways:** Teaching, Training & Facilitation in Education; Physical Health; and Engineering.
- **Proposed Career Pathways:** Industrial Machinery and Financial Strategy & Investments.
- **Proposed New Courses (2027–2028): (No new staffing)**
    1. AP/Honors Cybersecurity
    2. PLTW Advanced Manufacturing
    3. Foundations of Emerging Technologies
    4. ECE Music Appreciation
    5. Crime & Mystery – English
    6. ECE If You Love It, Teach It
    7. Unified Music

8. Adaptive Music

District Improvement Plan & MTSS District-Wide Report (2026–2027)

An update was provided on the 2026–2027 District Improvement Plan and district-wide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) implementation.

Link It Platform Implementation & Staff Support

- **Standardized Workflows:** All district-wide MTSS referrals, Tier 2/3 reading and math intervention plans and goals, and Tier 3 progress monitoring are maintained in Link It.
- **Areas for Growth:** Progress monitoring for Tier 2 students, along with the use of meeting invites and meeting minutes within Link It!, remains mixed across the district.
- **Professional Support:** Staff participated in an August training and collaboration work session. ELA and math progress monitoring data lockers were built and shared this fall, and 1:1 coaching is being offered to all interventionists and coaches.
- **Special Education Referrals (2025–2026 SY):** There were 25 district-wide referrals from MTSS to Special Education (excluding parent referrals), resulting in 14 students identified through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process.

i-Ready Assessment & Research on Effectiveness Report

Dr. Mary Schaefer presented an overview of **i-Ready Inform** (formerly i-Ready Diagnostic), state assessment guidance, independent research reviews, and district usage.

- **Litigation Update (*M.C. v. Curriculum Associates*):** Dr. Mary Schaefer reviewed a December 2025 Massachusetts class-action lawsuit alleging unauthorized third-party student data sharing. Curriculum Associates has denied the claims as meritless, and no outcome has been reached. (The law firm involved has filed similar active suits against other major EdTech vendors.)
- **Connecticut Sensible Assessment System (CSDE, 2026):** State guidance emphasizes reducing broad assessments while balancing **Formative** (embedded daily checks and K–3 literacy screeners like DIBELS), **Interim Block** (skill-based Focused IABs, ~20–45 minutes up to 6x/year), and **Summative** (SBAC/NGSS) assessments. Note: 1-on-1 Grade 1 DIBELS testing requires approximately 3.5 to 5 hours of total instructional time per 20-student class. iReady is used as a screener (required component of MTSS).
- **Research & Validity Reviews:**
    - Both the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) and a May 2025 independent review prepared for the CSDE Performance Office classify i-Ready as a valid, reliable K–8 screener with minor weaknesses (needing additional external validity evidence for vocabulary/comprehension and lacking a separate oral language score).
    - Research notes that Curriculum-Based Measurements (CBMs like DIBELS) better measure fluency, whereas Computer Adaptive Tests (CATs like i-Ready) are more efficient for vocabulary and reading comprehension.
- **RHPS Assessment Implementation:**
    - **ELA Screeners:** DIBELS (Grades K–3) and i-Ready (Grades 4–8), administered 3 times per year (~45 minutes each).
    - **Math Screeners:** i-Ready (Grades 1–8), administered 3 times per year (~45 minutes each).
    - **Purpose & Outcomes:** Used to identify at-risk students, pinpoint instructional strengths/weaknesses, establish baseline Lexile/normed growth targets, and track cohort progress. Cohort data demonstrated strong alignment between i-Ready proficiency (65%) and SBAC performance (73%), alongside significant year-over-year reductions in students scoring two or more grade levels below standard (e.g., Grade 6 intervention cohort reduced from 53 students to 36 students).

2026–2027 District Curriculum Update & Next Steps

The committee reviewed ongoing curriculum initiatives across grade bands and professional development priorities for the 2026–2027 school year:

- **District Curriculum Committee (DCC) & Pedagogy:** Establishing DCC roles and responsibilities. Launching a Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy PD plan (including training with Dr. Violet Simms, a keynote, student focus groups, DCC training, and department sessions), plus Assistive Technology PD (two half-days and virtual coaching) for related service staff.
- **PreK–Grade 5:**
  - *PreK–K:* CREC Pre-School curriculum aligned to CT-ELDS/CT DOTS
  - Kindergarten Play-Based Learning Plan with a Social Studies focus.
  - *K–5 Content:* Math Bridges v.3 updates; final phase of ELA Bookworms compendium implementation; K–3 Studies Weekly curriculum maps; and Grades 4–5 Social Studies program review (*Studies Weekly* vs. *Impact Social Studies*).
- **Grades 3–8:** Implementation of Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs) and member participation in the CSDE curriculum fellowship program.
- **Grades 9–12:** Career cluster alignment, new course proposals for dual enrollment and pathways, and developing AI-proof assessments and homework.
- **Curriculum Contracts & Next Steps:** Completing unit updates incorporating vertical alignment and culturally responsive feedback, and collaboratively developing a **multi-year district curriculum mapping plan** with input from all stakeholders.

Following a Q&A session

Adjournment

- Committee Chair Ms. Kristen Dudanowicz requested a motion to adjourn. **Motion:** Made by Mr. Thomas Cosker and Seconded by Ms. Amber Tucker

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st Motion

Adjournment

- Committee Chair Ms. Kristen Dudanowicz requested a motion to adjourn. **Motion:** Made by Mr. Thomas Cosker and Seconded by Ms. Amber Tucker

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:42 P.M. TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____

Date of BOE Approval: _____ Signature of BOE Secretary: _____
Form revised 1/1/11