

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VIRTUAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JULY 2, 2020**

The July 2, 2020 Virtual Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Bill Salazar 5:31 PM.

**Present:** Bill Salazar, Jonathan LeBlanc and Joyce Hall  
**Absent:** None  
**Also Present:** Wendy Costa, Kerry Wiley, Jay Lamesa and Michelle Middleton  
**Audience:** None

**Online Secondary Math Resource:**

Mr. Lamesa gave a brief overview of the EPS K-12 vision for mathematics to show how this new math resource, Illustrative Math, will align with our vision and goals for teaching and learning mathematics in Enfield Public Schools. Mr. Lamesa reviewed the goals for teachers and students, the common format, the common problem-solving strategy, and the five principles of mathematical thinking. Mr. Lamesa explained that while we have Ready Mathematics for Grades K-6, we have been looking for a problem-based resource for Grades 7 and above. Illustrative Math is a resource that is free when using the online version. It was created by the authors of the Common Core Standards for Mathematics, so it naturally aligns with our curriculum, as well as our vision for mathematics instruction. Some of the benefits highlighted by Mr. Lamesa are its real-world applications, the fact it uses geometry as a lens for Algebraic topics, its strong statistics units, and its easy integration with iPads and Microsoft products to support distance learning. Mr. Lamesa showed the committee the Grade 8-unit progression as an example.

Committee members asked how this was different than what we have been doing in Grade 8. It was explained that this resource uses more geometry and introduces it earlier in the year. Because of this, students can better understand how geometry and algebra work together. Another question that was asked was how much time is used for each unit to get all nine in over the course of the school year. It was explained that each unit needs a different amount of time and that a pacing guide would be developed during summer curriculum writing.

Committee members asked how many units were hands-on. Mr. Lamesa explained that many of them are. They come with suggested tools, many of which we already have. The committee asked how does hands-on work if students are home again? It was explained that lessons can be adapted so that the manipulatives are not needed. Also, there are digital manipulatives built into the online resource. The committee asked if students could work together even if they were at home. Mr. Lamesa answered yes, the teacher can set up groups. The committee did not have any concerns with this resource and agreed to move forward with its use.

**Update on Planning for 2020-2021 School Year:**

Ms. Middleton presented an update on planning for 2020-2021. It was reported that most curriculum writing teams had been formed and many had begun their projects. Some projects have already been completed and presented to the Academic Office for approval. As with the new online math resource presented on July 2, other online resources are being looked at that can possibly support our curriculum through a distance learning model, if necessary. The Academic Office is looking into professional development opportunities over the summer that discuss effective implementation of distance learning.

**Items from the Table:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Middleton  
Chief Academic Officer