

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
JUNE 20, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Artie Kassimis, Chair; Sherelle Harris
STAFF: Dr. Michael Conner, Deputy Superintendent;
Helen Becker, Curriculum/Instruction Specialist
Silvermine Elementary School: Ivette Ellis, Principal; Elizabeth Chahine, Ed Wachowski;
Mid-Fairfield County Child Guidance Center: Gail Melanson, Gily Montanez, Marissa Magnone
Center for Children’s Advocacy: Edwin Colon

Call to Order

Mr. Kassimis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated that those in attendance were as listed above.

Approval of Minutes – May 31, 2017

Ms. Harris asked to have stronger language regarding the disappointment with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt approach for the Social Studies curriculum and that their approach did not satisfy the objective of eliminating stereotype. Also the language used in the photograph captions on slavery and other examples given were unacceptable.

- ** MS. HARRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 31, 2017 AS AMENDED.**
- ** MR. KASSIMIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Silvermine Dual Language Program Update

Helen Becker, Curriculum/Instruction Specialist delivered the power point presentation and distributed handouts and pamphlet that covered the following areas:

Dual Language Allocation Plan 2017-18
Update on ELL Program
2017-18 Curriculum and Program
Norwalk International Academy

Summary charts from the presentation and handouts are attached.

Where we are and where we are headed...

OUR CURRENT CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

2017-2018 CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

Follow the Journey's Reading and Writing Curriculum and Scope and Sequence on a 5-day cycle, with Week A being taught in Language A and Week B being taught in Language B. All APTs are conducted in English. There is one Reading Block/ day and one Writing Block/ day.



Follow the Norwalk ELA scope and sequence, using Journeys as a resource. There will be two language arts blocks/ day in Language A and B, incorporating Reading and Writing in both. However, at the end of each unit, concepts will be bridged to the other language, and then extended (applied) in the other language. APTs will be conducted in both languages over the course of the year.

Follow the Go Math program on a 5-day cycle, with week A in Language A and week B in Language B. All APTs are conducted in English.



Follow the Go Math program, maintaining one language throughout the year. However, at the end of each unit, concepts will be bridged to the other language, and then extended (applied) in the other language. While each math unit will be carried out in Language A with an extension in Language B, the math intervention block will be carried out in Language B. Math will be taught in Language A on an alternating basis each year (K, 2nd, and 4th in Spanish, 1st, 3rd, and 5th in English).

Science and Social Studies are taught on an alternating basis by unit, with week A in Language A and week B in Language B. Content is taught separately from Language Arts.



Science and Social Studies are taught in the same language all year, on an alternating basis each year. (K, 2nd, and 4th Social Studies in Spanish, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Science in Spanish). Content will be integrated within the Language Arts blocks. At the end of each unit, concepts will be bridged to the other language, and then extended (applied) in the other language.

English Reading Intervention (ECRI) is carried out during the Language Arts block, 5 days/ week during English Language Arts weeks, 3 days/ week during Spanish Language Arts weeks.



English Reading Intervention (ECRI) will be carried out during a bilingual intervention block, as well as Estrellita for Spanish Reading Intervention (for foundational skills) with our Project Excel Assistants. This change helps to maintain the 50/50 model.

Spanish Intervention with three Project Excel Assistants occurs under the guidance of classroom teachers and is different at each grade level. ESL uses a pull-out model and works with Newcomers, L1s, L2s, and L3s.



ESL will continue a pull-out model for L1s and L2s, but will push in for L3s. With the additional ESL/SSL teacher, we will be providing more targeted support for the ELLs in the dual language program.

Specials are conducted in English, though Music frequently incorporates Latin songs and culture. Art classes frequently study artists from Spanish-speaking countries.



Specials will continue to be conducted in English, but we are considering the use of other resources to increase the use of Spanish. This would be facilitated through our parent coordinator.

NORWALK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

**A Program for
English Language
Learners
at
Brien McMahon H.S.
and
Norwalk H. S.**



NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What is the Norwalk International Academy?

The Norwalk International Academy (NIA) is a program designed to meet the needs of Norwalk's recently-arrived high school English Language Learners (ELLs) who have gaps in their education and/or need intensive academic instruction to prepare them for high school courses.

Where is the program located?

The program is located at both Brien McMahon High School and Norwalk High School.

When did the program begin?

The program began on January 26, 2015.

What classes are offered?

NIA students take a double block of ESL Foundations, a double block of ESL Math Foundations, and ESL Science Foundations. ESL Foundations stresses basic literacy, vocabulary and conversation skills. ESL Math Foundations gives students the math skills needed to take Algebra the following year, and ESL Science Foundations prepares students for the regular science course sequence. In addition, bilingual (Spanish) counseling/social work services are available.

Do students receive credits towards graduation for courses offered in the NIA?

Yes. Students receive credits towards graduation for NIA courses.

May students take other courses at the high school?

Yes. Students are encouraged take any other high school courses they are ready for linguistically and academically. We encourage students to challenge themselves; we provide extra help in our ELL Tutoring Center so that students can be successful.

How do we choose students for the program?

We choose students whose academic histories suggest that they have gaps in their education. We help students fill in those gaps so that they can be successful in high school courses.

Are there opportunities in the summer for NIA students to further advance their linguistic and academic skills?

Yes. NIA students are encouraged to enroll in the ELL Summer Academy so that they can boost their language and academic skills during the summer months.

“The English Language Learner Education (ELL) Department is committed to giving every ELL the opportunity to have a successful academic experience. The *Norwalk International Academy* is designed to meet the needs of the growing number of high school-aged students in our community so that they may reach their greatest potential.”

**Helene Becker,
Instructional Specialist
ELL Education Department
Norwalk Public Schools**

Dual Language Allocation Plan 2017-2018

	Spanish	Bridge and Extension	English
Kindergarten	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies -Math <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention
First Grade	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math
Second Grade	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies -Math <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention
Third Grade	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math
Fourth Grade	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies -Math <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention
Fifth Grade	-Language Arts/ Science -Math Intervention	<i>Spanish to English (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Science <i>English to Spanish (end of every unit):</i> -Language Arts -Social Studies	-Language Arts/ Social Studies -Math

Ms. Gily Montanez and Ms. Marissa Magnone from the Mid-Fairfield County Child Guidance Center provided an overview of the partnership with Norwalk Public Schools and the ELL Education Department.

Mr. Edwin Colon of the Center for Children's Advocacy spoke on the challenges and barriers of unaccompanied minors, truancy, and the need for additional support services for the bilingual community.

There was discussion and comments on the support, success and next steps as follows:

Next Steps

- Closer collaboration with the NPS BOE and other service providers to ensure Norwalk's high-need students continue to receive comprehensive wrap around mental/behavioral health services
- Continue to research funding opportunities and apply for grants to help sustain services
- Explore possible implementation of Bounce Back, a school-based group intervention for elementary students exposed to stressful and traumatic events

ADJOURNMENT

- ** **MS. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services