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**

- 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 APIs are conducted in English. There is one Reading Block/day and one Writing Block/day.

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

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

- 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, L1, L2, and L3.

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

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**2017-2018 CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM**

- 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. APIs will be conducted in both languages over the course of the year.

- 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 in the same language all year, on an alternating basis each year. 1st, 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 (ERI) will be carried out during a bilingual intervention block, as well as Estrella for Spanish Reading Intervention (for students in 1st-3rd grade) with our Project Excel Assistants. This change helps to maintain the 40-50 model.

- ESL will continue a pull-out model for L1 and L2, but will push in for L3. With the additional ESL/SSL teachers, we will be providing more targeted support for the ESLs in the dual language program.

- 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.

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 to 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

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