
**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
NHS NORTH BOARD ROOM**

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held at NHS North on Wednesday, May 12, 2026. Ms. Prinn called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Present: Ms. Prinn and Ms. Giglio

Also Present: Dr. Scarpati, Michael Harrington, and Ms. DiFillipo

Also Present: Channel 99 Videographer

Summary

The Curriculum and Evaluation Committee meeting focused on the STEAM pilot for the 2026-2027 school year. The pilot will be implemented at Bicentennial and Fairgrounds Elementary Schools, each with a full-time certified teacher. The curriculum includes digital literacy, digital citizenship, science/engineering, communication, tech/coding, and non-tech building experiences. The team has conducted extensive research, including site visits and meetings with curriculum providers. They plan to order materials, set up classrooms, and provide professional development over the summer. Future steps include monitoring and potential expansion based on feedback and evaluation.

Overview of STEAM Pilot Initiative

- Dr. Scarpati explained the goal of strengthening the unified arts offering at the elementary level.
- Current setup includes art, music, physical education, library, and a computer lab taught by library media specialists and technology integration assistants.
- The computer labs have had mixed results, with variability in implementation across buildings.
- The initiative aims to integrate STEAM at the elementary level, similar to the high school CTE classes, and to ensure it is taught by certified teachers.

Selection of Pilot Schools

- Dr. Scarpati selected Bicentennial Elementary and Fairgrounds Elementary as pilot schools for the upcoming year.
- Both schools are similar in size and have a full-time technology integration assistant (TIA).
- The pilot will help fine-tune the curriculum and training before scaling it up to all 12 elementary schools.
- The pilot will be part of the unified arts schedule, with students attending a 50-minute STEAM class once a week.

Fairgrounds Elementary STEAM Lab

- Mr. Harrington provided background on the STEAM lab at Fairgrounds Elementary, funded by a grant through SNHU and the Boston Celtics.
- The lab includes resources like a red printer, green screen, codable robots, and Legos.
- The lab struggled with full utilization without a full-time staff member, but the pilot aims to reinvigorate it with a certified teacher.
- Dr. Scarpati mentioned the collaborative desks in the STEAM lab and the order of similar desks for Bicentennial Elementary.

Planning and Research for the STEAM Pilot

- Dr. Scarpati outlined the planning team, including herself, Kristin Smith, Cindy. DeFilippo, Monica Tino, Patty Davidson, Michael Harrington, and Michael. Mahoney.
- The team has been meeting every four to six weeks since March to set the vision, select curriculum resources, and discuss logistics.
- Research was conducted on existing STEAM programs in other schools and districts, including site visits to Concord, New Hampshire, and Concord, Massachusetts.
- The team met with representatives from Project Lead the Way, Youth Engineering Solutions, Sam Labs, and Ed Club to explore curriculum resources.

Curriculum Map and Teacher Hiring

- Dr. Scarpati discussed the draft curriculum map, which included strands for digital literacy, digital citizenship, science/engineering, communication, tech/coding, and non-tech building experiences.
- The curriculum aims to balance robust content without overloading teachers.
- Teachers for the pilot schools are internal, ensuring they know the students and core curriculum.
- The teachers have elementary education certification, with additional certifications being a plus.

Field Trips and Career Connections

- Dr. Scarpati emphasized the importance of field trips to expose students to different careers and STEAM programs at high schools.
- The team is exploring funding options for field trips, including Title IV funds and charitable organizations.
- The curriculum includes career connections, with field trips to South and North high schools and visits from local engineers.

Next Steps and Future Plans

- The next steps include building out the timeline and scope and sequence for each grade level.
- The team will order materials for Project Lead the Way and complete virtual professional development over the summer.
- The room setups at both pilot schools are in progress, with Chromebook carts being prepared.
- The teachers will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the roadmap and start building out lessons.

Discussion on Additional Resources and Ideas

- Ms. Prinn mentioned the "Tech Exploration" program and suggests it as a non-computer-based field trip option.
- Ms. DeFilippo discussed the use of Bee-bots and Spiro robots for hands-on coding activities.
- The team is considering the potential for high school students to volunteer or participate in the STEAM program.
- Dr. Scarpati and Ms. DeFilippo discussed the importance of digital citizenship and digital literacy components in the curriculum.

Ms. Giglio moved, seconded by Ms. Prinn, to adjourn. Motion passes at 6:42 pm.

Submitted by Tara C. Kinsella