

Students show how learning online is fun

Coventry School Comm. watches presentation

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COVENTRY —Chromebooks continue to be an amazing learning tool as first and fourth grade projects use the tool to learn about animals that hibernate, as students showed at Tuesday night's Coventry School Committee meeting.

Science teachers Jessica Easton and Ray Raboin explained how their lesson on the ecosystem can tie in with the Common Core.

"They split up into groups of two, a first- and a fourth-grader, and were taught to be able to use different web tools to get their points across," he said. "We worked on three, half-hour sessions, so what you see today is 90 minutes of what we've been able to accomplish."

The first graders started off in the library actually

See **ONLINE**, Page A-2

Online projects show integration

Continued from Page A-1

doing the research then utilized the Animoto program, which helped out with putting the pictures and music together.

Easton said the skills used, including writing, are all part of Common Core standards. Each student group created their own videos, which included various facts about the black bear, snakes and bats.

Students learned what the animals eat and why, how they live in their habitat and where they're born and how they look for food; also about bear cubs and how long they sleep, what the body temperature is for bats and how long they hibernate, and when they're most active.

"This was another way of bringing technology into every day learning," Easton said. "These students don't have their own books yet, but to be exposed to them was a great lesson for them."

In another agenda item, enacting new bylaws for the committee was discussed briefly.

The members of the school committee believe in moving the district forward and part of that process includes bringing the policies that were originally set forth in the 1970's, up to date to reflect the district's current needs.

Member Ann Dickson explained in late fall, she began reviewing the bylaws and polices and took her ideas to the school committee then formed a review committee.

"They were not compliant with the open meetings law and incorporated polices and bylaws into one document," she said of her motivation. The topics from the older by-



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First and fourth grade science students from Blackrock Elementary Bryant Amaral and Alec Castle worked on bears, Matthew Lavioe and Caleb Fitzgerald worked on the snake video, and Ben Brown and Niko Cotatgis worked on the bat video with teachers Jessica Easton and Ray Raboin.

laws include setting the time and place for regularly scheduled meetings, establishing necessary special considerations for committee meetings during budget preparations, establishing a process and procedure for preparation and delivery of school committee meetings, establishing an accepted procedure for making and recording the formal actions of the committee, clarifying the committee's position on the use of school facilities by/for commercial purposes and establishing a procedure for con-

ducting regular, work session and executive meetings

Dickson hopes to add bylaws that include term limits, a quorum takes a majority which follows current process but wasn't embedded anywhere.

Because two of the five members of the committee were not present, the first reading of the bylaws could not be completed but a more in depth discussion and reading will take place at the next committee meeting.