

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library
May 22, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Smith (BC) - Chair
Joe Blakely (SHS)
Kristin McCarthy (BT),

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Pregent (BC)
Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Sandra Cameron, Director of Early Education
Scott Griggs, Principal (BTMES)
Lindy Johnson, Literacy Specialist
Rick McCraw, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)
Jim Taffel, Principal, (BCEMS)
Jackie Tolman, Principal (BCEMS)
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding

1. Call to Order

Mr. Smith called the Monday, May 22, 2017, meeting to order at 5:37 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Review / Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2017 Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Committee unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the April 24, 2017 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.

4. Visitors and Communications

None.

5. BTMES Overview

Copies of screen shots from a Power Point presentation (A Day in the Life at BTMES) were distributed. Administrators gave a presentation providing an overview of a typical day at BTMES. Mrs. Nye advised regarding grades K – 4, including morning meeting, core subjects, lunch, recess, and Allied Arts/Specials (Art, Library, Physical Education, Band – grade 4, Guidance/Health, and WIN - What I Need). Additional information was provided on the topics of Standards Based Grading, before and after school services, as well as Special Services. Mr. Griggs advised regarding grades 5 – 8, including TA time, core subjects, Study Hall, Specials (Physical Education, Chorus, Band, Jazz Band, Family & Consumer Sciences, Art (grade 5), Design Lab (grades 6 – 8), and Spanish), and Enrichment. Mr. Griggs also advised regarding after school activities and supports. It was noted that the Responsive Classroom and PBIS systems are utilized. Most of the ‘Specials’ staff members are shared between the Middle and Elementary schools. Mrs. Cameron advised regarding the Prekindergarten Program (SU-wide), which includes both morning and afternoon programs. Prekindergarten programs include a large group meeting (for social connections, movement activities and read ‘aloud’ time), a physical activity period, and small group time (table time). A meal is provided at both sessions (morning and afternoon). The prekindergarten program plans to increase the preschool ‘day’ by 10 to 15 minutes). The prekindergarten program serves children ages 3 to 5, provides additional services to students with special needs, promotes family involvement, and complies with all State Licensing requirements (including curriculum/instruction, and assessments). Coordination/communication between Prekindergarten and Kindergarten staff is essential, and additional efforts have been made to increase communication.

6. BCEMS Overview

Three documents were distributed; a document containing screen shots of a Power Point presentation (A Day in the Life at BCEMS), 'PREVIEW: Seven Strands of Elementary Designs Practices' and 'Origins of Developmental Designs'. Mr. Taffel advised regarding grades K – 4, including morning meeting, counselor meetings, core subjects, Specials, Math and Literacy Intervention, and the High Achievers Program (Renaissance Readers – grades 3 & 4). Additional information was provided on Social/Emotional systems of support shared by both elementary and middle school students. These supports include a school psychologist, Resource Officer, a social worker, independent mental health counselors, the School Based Health Clinic, the Tooth Tutor Program, and School Nurses. Mrs. Tolman advised regarding grades 5 – 8, including TA time, core subjects Specials, Enrichment, and the Expert/Explore Block. Mrs. Tolman also advised regarding Social and Emotional supports available to the Middle School (Room 100 staff, Room 207, Restorative Practices, Developmental Designs (which is replacing the Responsive Classroom model), the 'STAND UP' model, Guidance Department, individual counseling, lunch groups, the DARE program, the Student Assistance Provider, the 'Everybody Wins Program, bullying and harassment investigation and education/prevention, and liaisons from outside agencies. Northeast Family Institute provides training to staff in the area of Trauma Informed Learning. It was noted that 220 students (24% of the student population) receive Special Education services. A brief overview of Standards Based Grading and Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) was also provided. It was noted that both schools operate in a similar manner.

7. SHS/CVCC Overview

A document containing screen shots of a Power Point presentation (Overview of Spaulding High School Programs and Supports) was distributed. Mrs. Waterhouse advised regarding the General Schedule (AM Block for Band and Chorus, 4 academic blocks, and 3 AA – Academic Advisory Bands, one of which is lunch time for students). Next year, a 'Moral Ethics' course will be offered opposite the Drivers' Education blocks (Band C and Block 3). The program of studies includes courses required for graduation, as well as electives, AP and Honors courses, and intervention courses which include supports within each course. Financial Literacy will soon be a required course (for students to take during their Junior or Senior year). Students utilize Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) to assist with course selection and direction. Flexible Pathways are also available and include online courses, Community College of Vermont / Dual Enrollment courses, VAST (Vermont Academy Science & Technology, Work Based Learning (WBL), and independent studies. Students who are enrolled in the Central Vermont Career Center join SHS courses during Block 3B. In addition to Special Education services, academic support is available to students before and after school, as well as during advisory (bands A – C). Additional programs to support students include the Phoenix Program, Brookstreet (Capstone), Granite Academy, ACT and out placement (CHOICE, Maple Hill, The New School, etc.). Social and Emotional Support Systems include; School Nurses, Guidance Counselors (Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III), a school based psychologist, a school based social worker, Substance Abuse Program (SAP) counselors, the ACCESS program (All Children Can Enter), and a School Resource Office (SRO). Special Education services also include the use of Para-educators, Behavioral Interventionists, and Case Managers. Northeast Family Institute provides training to staff in the area of Trauma Informed Learning. Mrs. Waterhouse provided a comprehensive overview of Proficiency Based Learning and Grading, including a review of Infinite Campus and numerous improvements made to the software to accommodate this new grading system. Changes to Naviance, Infinite Campus, and the school's web site are ongoing as the school works to implement the PLPs and Proficiency Based Learning/Grading.

8. Discussion on Existing Alignment and Areas of Improvement

Brief discussion was held regarding the similarities between BCEMS and BTMES, collaboration on report cards (with the goal of using common language), coordination of staff training on Next Generation Science Standards (between BCEMS and BTMES), and renovations to the SHS library (creation of 'Maker Space'). Mrs. Spaulding requested data relating to the progress on students served by the prekindergarten programs (e.g., progress shown from pre-k through 2nd grade).

The BSU Curriculum Committee does not plan to meet in June or July of 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., in the SHS Library.

Mr. Smith distributed a document titled 'Proposed 2017 – 2018 Monthly Curriculum Committee Topic Schedule'.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin