

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library  
January 2, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tyler Smith (BC) - Chair  
Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair  
Joe Blakely (SHS) – arrived at 6:23 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kristin McCarthy (BT),  
Sarah Pregent (BC)

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services  
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)  
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Venus Dean                      Karen Heath                      Lindy Johnson                      Paul Malone

**Mr. Smith called the Tuesday, January 2, 2018, meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**1. Review and Approve Minutes of the November 27, 2017 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes  
The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the Minutes of the November 27, 2017 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.**

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**  
None.

**3. ESSA Vermont State Plan Update**

Screen prints of a Power Point Presentation titled ‘Vermont State Accountability Plan Information Session’ were distributed. Additionally, Mrs. Tolman distributed enlarged, color copies of some of the screen prints, and a copy of a document titled ‘State Plan Readiness Checklist’ (from the Agency of Education). Mrs. Tolman advised that this evening’s presentation would cover most of the ‘essential components’. The Goal for this meeting is to increase understanding of the Vermont State Plan and make Committee Members aware of the changes, timelines for implementation of changes, and suggestions relating to preparation for making changes. Mrs. Tolman proceeded with the Power Point Presentation, providing historical information pertaining to accountability systems (2001 to present), Vermont Education Policy and Law, which is intended to assure that all students receive necessary supports (through accountability and improvement efforts), and the culture change associated with accountability, which focuses on continuous improvement and AOE support, rather than punitive action. The presentation continued with an overview of the new system for quality reviews which begins with identification of standards, annual ‘Snapshot’ reporting, Field Reviews, and Continuous Improvement Plans. Mrs. Tolman advised regarding differences with the new reporting and accountability process, and the five Education Quality Standards (Academic Proficiency, Personalization, Safe Healthy Schools, High Quality Staffing, and Investment Priorities). Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of assessment changes, which includes Smarter Balanced Scale Scores, changes to grades being assessed, assessments in PE, and assessments relating to Career & College Readiness and Post-graduation Measures. Brief discussion was held regarding the challenges associated with tracking post-graduation status of students. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the Education Quality Reviews components, including which Snapshot indicators meet State and ESSA Standards. It was noted that Academic Proficiency is measured by assessments (in ELA, Math, Science, and PE), English Language Proficiency, Graduation Rates (a 6-year cohort), and Career and College Ready (assessments and outcomes). The Scale Score will be used as well as a three-year growth score, which allows for assessment of students over a period of time. Eventually, information on scores will be tied to Title Funds. PE assessments are new and require licensing of software and training of staff. Upcoming Fitnessgram training has been scheduled. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the implementation timeline, which needs to be completed in the 2018-2019 academic year. Mrs. Tolman advised that the Field Reviews will result in findings reports that include both commendations and recommendations. Examples of commendations and recommendations were provided. The Integrated Field Reviews will be conducted by mostly local, ‘outside’ teams of educators who are also implementing EQS. Teams are selected by superintendents and the AOE has asked for a diverse membership make-up. The team members will be trained by the Agency of Education. The presentation included a breakdown of content areas being assessed for both Snapshot and Field Reviews, including grades to be tested.

Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the 'Role of Goals' within the Accountability System, including long-term, short-term, and interim goals. In response to a query regarding the tracking of transient students, it was noted that the State hopes to use the new longitudinal reporting system to accomplish that feat. It was reported that training provided to Administrators was very intense and involved over 200 slides of information. This presentation reflects a small compilation of information provided during training. The implementation of these massive changes will be complex and time consuming. Much work is still to be done. It was noted that not all staff are receptive of the changes which need to take place. Mrs. Tolman was thanked for providing this evening's information and for her involvement in this complex process.

#### **4. Meeting Organization and Future Topics**

Mr. Smith addressed the Committee advising that he would like to modify the plan regarding meeting agenda topics. Mr. Smith feels that though the review of different areas is very informative, the current agenda plan does not allow the Committee time to assess and address deficiencies that have been identified. In addition to the previously planned agenda items, Mrs. Waterhouse advised that she has some time sensitive 'high school only' related items that also need to be presented and addressed (e.g. graduation requirements, Work Based Learning, and the upcoming NEASC review). It is the consensus of the Committee that deficiencies identified during meetings have not been addressed, and need to be prioritized and worked on. Discussion will be necessary to determine how and by whom, deficiencies should be remedied. Various suggestions include expanding the timeframe (to 2 years) to cover all curriculum areas, formation of subcommittees, addressing deficiencies after informational subject meetings (2 informational meetings, then 1 action meeting). The Committee agreed to put the subject of Social Studies on hold for now and begin to revisit the deficiencies identified in the subject of 'Homework' (including revisiting the policy, consistency in grade to grade progression, the primary purpose for homework, philosophy regarding assignment of homework, and impact on Proficiency Base Grading. Committee Members will put thought into ways to gather information from stakeholders (teachers/parents/students). Mrs. Tolman will look into some type of survey. The Committee agreed to discuss Work Based Learning and Graduation Requirements at the January 29, 2018 meeting. The February meeting date and topic will be determined at a later date.

#### **5. Other Business**

It was noted that 'Report Card' letters will be sent out prior to Report Cards being distributed (for BCEMS and BTMES students).

#### **6. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Rouse, seconded by Mr. Blakely, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*