

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library
November 27, 2017 - 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.
Kristin McCarthy (BT),

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Pregent (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Penny Chamberlin, Director Central Vermont Career Center
Michael Dreiblatt, Principal (BCEMS)
Scott Griggs, Principal (BTMES)
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Jim Taffel, Principal, (BCEMS) – departed at 6:45 p.m.
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mr. Smith called the Monday, November 27, 2017 meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

1. Review and Approve Minutes of the October 23, 2017 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the October 23, 2017 BSU Curriculum Committee Minutes.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Item #5 on the Agenda will be modified to reflect a start time of 6:20 p.m.

3. BTMES Science Curriculum

Four documents were distributed; A printed copy of a Power Point Presentation titled ‘Barre Town Middle & Elementary School - Grades PreK – 8 – BSU Curriculum Meeting: SCIENCE - November 27, 2017’, ‘NGSX: The Next Generation Science Exemplar – Learning System for Science Educators’, VELs (Vermont Early Learning Standards) Guiding Principles, and ‘K-ESS3-3 Earth and Human Activity’ (an example of an NGSS standard). Mrs. Nye and Mr. Griggs presented information to the Committee, starting with an overview of the Science Guiding Questions, and proceeded to provided information, by grade, regarding the time spent on science curriculum. It was noted that for pre-k, science exploration is ‘woven’ in throughout the week, to assure that all of the VELs standards are met. In grades 1 – 4, the amount of time spent on science varies, from 90 minutes per week to 240 minutes per week. Grades 5 – 8 have approximately 1 hour per day, with additional time available for 7th and 8th grade students through Enrichment classes. Professional development needs include; additional time for planning, review, creation of rubrics, adjustments to units of study, and collaboration/coordination with BCEMS (for alignment of curriculum) as well as additional work on the implementation of NGSS units of study. A brief overview (by grade) was provided regarding recent professional development and resources that have been explored. It was noted that students are feeling challenged by the new style of learning, which involves more in-depth investigation and discussion, including being required to ask many questions and explain possible theories.

4. BCEMS Science Curriculum

A printed copy of a Power Point Presentation titled ‘BARRE CITY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL - Science Status Report – Monday, November 27, 2017’ was distributed. Mr. Taffel and Mr. Dreiblatt presented information to the Committee, starting with an overview of the Guiding Questions, which include time spent for instruction and assessment (by grade level), professional development needs, updates on the implementation of NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), subject matter taught (at each grade level), staff involvement in professional development, and explored resources of value. Mr. Taffel and Mr. Dreiblatt provided detailed information, by grade level, providing responses to the Guiding Questions. It was noted that time spent on science is a bit limited in elementary school, as the main focus has been on math and literacy. Science and Social Studies units are alternated in several grades. The amount of time spent on science curriculum increases in Middle School. In addition to daily science classes, seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to pursue additional science/engineering instruction and experience during

Explore time (40 minute classes that meet 4 times per week). Additional professional development and coordination of curriculum across the district would be beneficial. The transition to NGSS is progressing and it was noted that NGSS is a different style of learning that involves more in-depth student exploration and investigation.

5. Spaulding High School Science Curriculum

A printed copy of a Power Point Presentation titled 'Spaulding High School – Curriculum Meeting - Science - November 27, 2017' was distributed. Mrs. Waterhouse advised regarding the new 'spiraling curriculum', where Integrated Science 1, 2, and 3 (currently in development) are being implemented. These courses have replaced the previous science classes (including honors classes) for freshman, sophomores and juniors. It is hoped that these classes will increase interest in the field of science and encourage students to take more intensive courses in the future. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that administrators will be requesting Board action regarding changes to graduation requirements, and would like to remove life and physical science courses from the program of studies. Mrs. Waterhouse advised regarding other science courses that are currently offered; Chemistry, Physics, Forensics, Anatomy & Physiology, and AP Biology. It was noted that since the implementation of Proficiency Based Learning, Environmental Science is no longer offered. Additionally, Mrs. Waterhouse advised regarding NGSS Standards, completion of renovations to all science rooms, new goggle sanitizing stations and organization of chemical supplies (including disposal of old chemicals). It was noted that there are no curriculum coordinators for Science, Social Studies, or the Arts programs. Mrs. Tolman advised that more science curriculum training is necessary, and that hiring a science curriculum coordinator should be considered. This position may be created as a stipend position. Curriculum and professional development should be coordinated and aligned for all schools, including CVCC. Brief discussion was held regarding qualifications for the position of Department Chair. It was reiterated that there needs to be an initiative to assist with coordination of curriculum alignment and professional development.

A copy of the CVCC Program of Studies for 2017 was distributed. Ms. Chamberlin addressed the Committee advising that STEM Coordinator; Gerry Reymore, has been instrumental in aligning career and tech education programs with proficiency standards. Ms. Chamberlin offered to have CVCC student demonstrations and teacher lead STEM presentations at each school. Administrators were advised to contact Ms. Chamberlin if they are interested in arranging these presentations. Ms. Chamberlin provided a brief overview of the 2017 Program of Studies document.

In response to a query, it was noted that homeschooled students may apply to CVCC without a letter from a guidance counselor.

6. Science Assessment and Professional Development

Discussion of Professional Development was imbedded throughout the meeting's discussion, resulting in minimal discussion under this agenda item. It was noted that NECAP Science testing will no longer occur, and that the new testing will involve 5th and 11th grade students. Fourth grade students will no longer participate in the testing. It was stressed that science curriculum units of study need to be aligned with NGSS standards.

7. Other

There will not be a meeting in December. There will be two meetings in January;
Monday, January 2, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library. Social Studies will be the topic of discussion.
Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Rouse, seconded by Mrs. McCarthy, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin