

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library
April 23, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Smith (BC) - Chair
Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair
Jennifer Chioldi (BC)
Joe Blakely (SHS)
Victoria Pompei (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Sandra Cameron, M.Ed., MOTR/L, Act 166 Regional Coordinator
Lauren May, M. Ed., Interim EEE Director
Donald McMahon, Director of Special Services
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Jim Taffel, Principal, (CEMS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paul Malone Sonya Spaulding Gerry Reymore Lauren Singer

Mr. Smith called the Monday, April 23, 2018, meeting to order at 5:38 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the March 26, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Updates to Family and Consumer Sciences Programs Presentation

Screen prints from a Power Point Presentation titled ‘Moving from FACS to Health in Middle School – PK – 12 Program Alignment’ was distributed. Mrs. Tolman advised that much work has been performed this year in an effort to align curriculum from Pre-k through 12th grade. As the program has changed much over the years, it is felt that the name should be changed from FACS to Health Education. The new name better reflects what is being taught. Mrs. Tolman provided a historical overview of the program, from the 70’s to current instruction. It was noted that there are no graduation requirements or curricula for FACS. Licensure of FACS is being phased out, with a movement towards a Statewide Health Licensure/Endorsement. Information regarding current staff and their Endorsements was shared with the Committee. Data from the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, guides the direction for Health education. BSU Tobacco Grant funding and resources supplement the development of Health Curricula. It is believed that this grant will be available next year. Alignment of curriculum has included discussion of adding Health at BCEMS for grades Pre-k through 4, so that BCEMS Health Curriculum aligns with BTMES (which does have a Health program). Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of work being performed to solidify alignment, including alignment to the National Health Standards, which have been adopted by the Vermont Agency of Education. It was noted that a Health credit is an SHS graduation requirement. Most high school students obtain the Health credit during their freshman year. A brief overview of licensing recommendations was provided. It was noted that Standards are addressed differently based on grade level and developmental needs. It was noted that teachers at BCEMS are trying to incorporate Health into their other curriculum. Mrs. Tolman provided a summary of the next steps which include; changing the name from FACS to Health, implementation of Health at BCEMS for Pre-k through 4th grade, continued work on alignment of curriculum, becoming consistent with Proficiency Skills Based Requirements (per National Health Standards), and Health Education Professional Development opportunities. The proposed name change will be brought before the BSU Board for approval. Implementation of Health for Pre-k through 4th grade at BCEMS will be brought before the BCEMS Board. Mrs. Tolman advised that there is funding to support Health Education at BCEMS and queried whether there should be a push to have the course implemented for next year (FY19). It was noted that BTMES has both Health and Guidance. For the purpose of aligned curriculum, should Guidance also be implemented at BCEMS? Mrs. Spaulding voiced concern for funding of Guidance. It was noted that funding (approximately

\$35,000) has been secured for Social/Emotional services. It was noted that the addition of 'Health', will impact report cards and scheduling.

4. BSU Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Intensive Special Needs Presentation

Screen prints of a presentation titled 'Presentation to the Barre Supervisory Union Curriculum Committee' (dated April 23, 2018) were distributed. Sandra Cameron and Lauren May introduced themselves to the Committee and provided a brief overview of their experience. Mrs. Cameron advised that the need for programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other intensive special needs, has been known for years and there has been an SU wide effort to implement programs to serve the need. The goal is to provide services as soon as Autism Spectrum Disorder has been diagnosed. Many students are diagnosed between 18 months and 2 years of age. It was noted that a diagnosis must be made by a physician, not staff. Additionally, there are students who are identified as 'intensive needs' students, who do not have a documented formal diagnosis. Mrs. Cameron advised regarding the population of students within the SU, noting that some students receive private services within the community. Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. May provided an overview of program services, and advised regarding the importance of keeping students in the classroom as much as possible. It is believed that services are best provided by utilizing Special Educators (rather than para-educators) in the classroom. Mrs. Cameron is confident that the BSU is ready to move forward with new programming and does not foresee any major obstacles or funding issues. Early cost analysis indicates that implementation of the new program should not have a significant impact on the budget. The next steps include meeting with families, finalizing details around space (at BTMES), transportation and staffing, developing a phase-in schedule (for Fall 2019), and performing some more in-depth cost analysis. Mrs. Cameron is looking forward to identifying a team and coordinating training.

5. Update – Specialization in the Middle School

Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the structure for 5th grade (at BCEMS and BTMES) and 6th grade (BCEMS) where each class is taught by 2 teachers. One of the two teachers provides Math and Science instruction. The other teacher provides instruction for Social Studies and Language Arts. There is a desire to change the structure to specialized teaching, whereas, each subject would be taught by a different teacher, who specializes in one topic. Mrs. Tolman advised that discussions have included identification of positives and hurdles/pitfalls of changing to a specialized structure, and provided an overview of the identified items. It is believed that the specialized model will be beneficial to both students and staff. Mr. Smith believes the biggest concern is having the right teacher in place for each subject. In response to a query, Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of each identified area of concern, and provided an in-depth explanation to better explain the identified concerns.

6. Next Meeting Date/Agenda

The next meeting will be Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library.

Agenda Items:

- SHS Community Service Graduation Requirements
- Pre-k through 12th grade Social Studies
- Pre-k through 4th grade Health

Mr. Smith advised that during his years of service on the BCEMS Board, he has not been made aware that there is no Health Curriculum for the lower grades, and queried regarding other possible 'holes' in curriculum. Adding Health for Pre-k through 4th grade should have been discussed during budget development.

Mr. Malone queried regarding students who opt out of classes and go to a Study Hall, rather than take a different academic class. Mrs. Tolman advised that students should have a personalized learning plan, and have options to take different classes, including on-line classes.

Mr. Malone advised that a student addressed the SHS Board recently regarding concern that a possible requirement for freshmen to take a collaborative PE class will have a negative impact on foreign language. Students, who are required to take PE during their freshman year, will be prevented from taking a foreign language class. The impact of losing a year of language could have a very negative impact on students and the language department as well. Losing a year of language could cause students to lose interest in a foreign language, and taking a year off from a foreign language will result in students 'losing' the skills that they acquired in middle school. It was noted that the State is now requiring 9th graders to be tested in 'Fitness'. Work is being done to develop curriculum and testing to meet the requirement. This item needs to be researched further.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Rousse, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin