

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library  
August 27, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tyler Smith (BC) - Chair  
Joe Blakely (SHS)  
Jennifer Chioldi (BC)  
Victoria Pompei (BT)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Penny Chamberlin, Director of CVCC  
Hayden Coon, Principal (BCEMS)  
Chris Hennessey, Principal (BCEMS)  
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)  
Jacquelyn Ramsey-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Karen Heath                      Lindy Johnson                      Ben Matthews                      Sonya Spaulding

**Mr. Smith called the Monday, August 27, 2018, meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**1. Introductions**

At the request of Mr. Smith, attendees introduced themselves, advising of their respective roles throughout the BSU.

**2. Review / Approve June 4, 2018 Curriculum Committee Minutes**

**On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Committee unanimously voted to approve, as amended, the June 4, 2018 Curriculum Committee Minutes.**

**3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

**4. Homework Policy**

Four documents were distributed; an article titled ‘What’s the Purpose of Homework?’, an article titled ‘Using Research to Answer Practical Questions About Homework’, an article from Seven Days titled ‘South Burlington School Bans Homework, Urges Kids to Play’, and an article from Good Housekeeping titled ‘An Elementary School Decided to Ban All Homework, and the Results Are Amazing’. Mr. Smith advised that in October of 2017, the Committee held discussion on homework and its purpose. Inconsistencies were noted in homework assignment practices. Mrs. Tolman began a Power Point Presentation, which included Questions For Educators’ (items to consider when deciding on possible homework assignments), Professional Learning Groups work relating to the review of homework practices, and alignment of practices. Some teachers are assigning reading, but no other homework. It was noted that there needs to be consistency for students and that inequities need to be resolved. Equitable opportunities need to be available for all students. Mrs. Tolman advised that she has been performing some initial research, and noted changes recently implemented at one South Burlington school, as well as other homework related articles (that were distributed). Mrs. Tolman is considering creating a survey and has drafted some questions. Mrs. Tolman advised that there is currently no formal/updated policy relating to homework. Mr. Smith advised that he believes an effective policy would be in the best interest of students and teachers, and feels that a policy should be created by teachers, and then be presented to the BSU Policy Committee. Mrs. Spaulding questioned whether or not students are being prepared for the ‘next level’ (e.g. high school to college), and advised that she believes keyboarding skills should be taught. Keyboarding (‘typing’) skills may help improve SBAC scores and would better prepare students to perform their schoolwork, as well as work outside of the school setting. Mr. Smith believes the Committee has made great steps in the right direction, and queried Mrs. Tolman about the possibility of having educators draft some type of homework policy that could be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee, and then be sent on to the Policy Committee.

## **5. Professional Development for the Year**

A document titled 'Table 1. Examples in a Range of Job-Embedded Learning Opportunities' was distributed. Mrs. Tolman advised that professional development was pretty much planned out by June of 2018. All Professional Development is tied to the Continuous Improvement Plan. Professional Development and Job Imbedded Coaching is scheduled for 10/05/18, 11/12/18, 01/22/19, 02/08/19, and 04/05/19. Mrs. Tolman provide a brief overview of EDCamps, advising that 2 ½ days are set aside for EDCamps. Links to youtube EDCamp videos were provided. Short videos were played. There will be two Cohorts for EDCamps (Elementary School and Middle &High School). Goal setting by teachers has included identification of instructional strategies to focus on as part of professional development. It is a goal to use feedback from this year to plan next year's professional development, with planning to be completed by early June 2019. Growth Mindset and Developmental Designs are being used at the middle school level. Great Schools Partnership consultants are working more at the grade level this year. A mentoring lunch was held this year and included discussion of Common Professional Dilemmas in Schools. Mentors and mentees will continue to meet throughout the year.

## **6. Establish Agenda and Date for Upcoming Meetings**

The Committee agreed not to meet in September, but to hold two meetings in October:

Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library  
Monday, October 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the SHS Library

Topics for discussion will include;

Review Report Card Guide

Review Proficiency Based Learning and Grading Guide (perhaps in draft form)

Technology – Infrastructure Needs / Upgrades, and Future Plans (invite Emmanuel Ajanma, Director of Technology to attend/present)

It was noted that the Committee's role should involve performing work, and not be limited to hearing information relating to Curriculum.

Mr. Smith acknowledged building level administrators for pulling together information for presentations at past and future meetings.

## **7. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*