

**Barre Town Curriculum and Teacher Support Committee Meeting Notes
September 9, 2015**

Present:

Brenda Buzzell, Chairperson
Tim Crowley, Principal
Jen Nye, Principal
Julia Pritchard, Director of Special Services
Rick McCraw, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Karen Heath, 3-8 Literacy Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 8:17 AM.

- I. Review/Approval of Minutes
- II. Additions/Deletions to agenda
- III. Looping Update
- IV. Curriculum Topics for the 2015-2016 School Year and Possible Implications for FY17
- V. Overview of Barre Town's 2015 SBAC results
- VI. Discussion of Future Meeting Times

I. Review/Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of May 6 were reviewed, but no action was taken.

II. Additions/Deletions to agenda

None except sequence.

III. Overview of Barre Town's 2015 SBAC results

Rick reviewed that associated handout. Brenda suggested that Rick present these results at the October board meeting. Rick will also include an overview of the SBAC scale score and a breakdown of Barre Town's results by subgroup.

Julia pointed out that analysis of the results for students on IEPs will be complicated by the lack of continuity between NECAP and SBAC results. She further pointed out a major uptick in **kindergarten** behavioral support this year, and that impacts focus on academics. Discussion ensued on other factors that will impact delivery of instruction at Barre Town. The discussion evolved to include the specialized classroom to address early-ed behavioral challenges: The demand is increasing. Julia points out that students in the behavior classroom are, overall, successful at re-entering the general ed setting. On the positive side, there are now only two Washington County Mental Health teams in place within the school, and there are also few outplacements at the moment.

IV. Looping Update

Jen reported that the investigation of looping is considering, but none is currently in place. However, last year there was some interest in looping on the part of last year's grade 3 team. The discussion turned to specialization and Jen reported that there is now specialization in grades 1, 2, 3 and 4. Jen further reported that the administration feels that specialization is working well.

V. Curriculum Topics for the 2015-2016 School Year and Possible Implications for FY17

Rick stated that there are no major expenses on the radar. Karen noted a request on the part of Ben Feld for new Social Studies textbooks or e-textbooks. Discussions are in an early stage, but a rough estimate of expense will be \$7,500. Tim felt that would fit within the existing curriculum budget.

Discussion turned to the nature and possible impacts of next year's change to free choice for parents regarding pre-K services. It appears that although Barre Town can cap enrollment, schools will not be able to define a catchment area. Brenda is interested in having Sandra Cameron present new information to the board. It's clear that this change will have a significant budget impact (estimated to be \$100,000, in the form of a \$3,000 fee for Barre Town students enrolled out of district). It may be desirable to budget for an additional pre-K classroom, since BT pre-K slots are always filled, and children end up on a waiting list.

Brenda inquired if pre-K students attend specials. They do to a limited extent, but opportunity is growing over time.

Karen Heath briefly explained that the Lucy Calkins writing program used in K-5 now has a reading comprehension program that follows Common Core expectations and describes sequential comprehension skills. This would be used in grades 4 and 5. However, any cost can be absorbed by the standing curriculum budget. She stated that Foundations is still in use for those children who need this. Brenda requested a more in-depth description at the next curriculum meeting of the reading program(s) in K-5.

VI. Discussion of Future Meeting Times

Move regular meeting to third Tuesday from 8 to 9:30, recognizing that there are some conflicts in November that will have to be resolved. These meetings will transition to an admin team meeting from 9:30 until 10:30 (but shorter if possible).

The October meeting will now be on Tuesday, October 20th from 8-9:30 am. We will schedule November at that meeting.

VII. Future Agenda

- Update of literacy programs and delivery models in grades K through 5 (Lindy, Johnson, Karen Heath)
- Additional topics to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick McCraw
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment