

**Barre Town Curriculum and Teacher Support Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Barre Town Middle and Elementary School**  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**In Attendance**

- Brenda Buzzell, Committee Chair and Board Member
- Scott Griggs, Principal, Grades 5-8
- Jen Nye, Principal, Grades P-4
- Lindy Johnson, BSU Primary-grades Literacy Specialist
- Rick McCraw, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, BSU

**Agenda**

1. Review/approve minutes of November 30<sup>th</sup>
2. Additions/deletions to agenda
3. Keyboarding instruction at BTMES
4. Handwriting instruction at BTMES
5. Update on standards-based grading and reporting
6. Upcoming agenda and meeting date/s.

The meeting was called to order at 4:22.

**1. Review/approve minutes of November 30<sup>th</sup>**

Minutes were approved without amendment.

**2. Additional/deletions to agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**3. Keyboard Instruction at BTMES**

See handout 1 for the bulk of the presentation. Additional notes follow.

Jen demoed the hardened iPad used for computer literacy in grades K and 1, where the focus is on controlling the device using swipes and gestures. There is no fixed budget for apps, so most are free. Jen demonstrated the pebblego app, a typical K-1 app.

Keyboarding starts in grade 2 using Typing Club. This work extends through grade 4. Students earn stars based on performance. Students can also use desktop computers.

Brenda asked about the laptops that were purchased some time ago. They have been retired due to age and security issues. Jen observed that the Chromebooks are in frequent use.

**4. Handwriting Instruction at BTMES**

*Handwriting without Tears* is in use. The program is quite costly, in large part due to materials being expensive. Not all teachers appreciate the program, in part because it is very language-

based. Also, it teaches only capitals in kindergarten, although teachers ask children to use lowercase as well.

Lindy: BSU is offering Orton-Gillingham (O-G) training this summer and fall to all K and 1 teachers, with Lindy participating as well. O-G includes handwriting. Further steps will be considered based on the summer and fall training.

Jen asked about the adoption process from the standpoint of the board and curriculum. We agreed that this is a program change, not curriculum, hence requires no board action.

Brenda asked about cursive writing. Some grade 3 teachers teach it, but it is being deemphasized in favor of other learning demands. There is instruction on letter formation, and morning announcements are often in cursive, but there is no workbook-based cursive practice.

Jen points out that in general, instructional time is limited. All of these things are included as time permits.

## **5. Update on Standards-Based Grading and Reporting**

Deferred to next meeting.

## **6. Upcoming agenda and meeting date/s**

We will meet from 4:00 to 5:00 on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Agenda: Standards-based grading and reporting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17.

Minutes respectfully submitted,



Rick McCraw  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment  
Barre Supervisory Union