

Spaulding High School Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes January 12, 2016

Members present:

Eddie Rouse, Curriculum Committee Chairperson

Others present:

Rick McCraw, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Penny Chamberlin, Director, CVCC

Jon Winston, Math Integrationist, CVCC

Ruth Durkee, Assessment, Dual Enrollment and Post-Secondary Coordinator, CVCC

Kathy Fuller, Special Needs Coordinator, CVCC

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

I. Review and Approve Previous Minutes

The December 2015 minutes were approved without change.

II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

There are no additions or deletions.

III. Central Vermont Career Center Program Overview: What's New at CVCC?

Jon began by presenting his math program. His role is to integrate math instruction within each of the programs. He began by establishing the baseline math skills for CVCC. Jon shared three years of incoming students' performance on his standard assessment (which is taken without calculators). Generally speaking, incoming math performance is quite low. He finds much inconsistency in the math approaches taken by the sending schools.

He went on to share examples of math use in various programs. Among his observations is that many incoming students are unable to read tape measures. Literacy is an issue as well.

Ed asked if there was a prerequisite skillset, and there isn't a formal prerequisite.

Penny took over to point out that academics are infused in the programs, but historically there was not much academic support within CVCC. Jon's position was the first step in developing academics.

Kathy took over to discuss her communication with staff in sending schools regarding the math used in various programs. This led to Montpelier developing a tech math class to help students meet those requirements. She also communicates needed reading levels by program (List is in the handout.)

Discussion returned to the intensive academic needs that many incoming students have. Rick spoke to a few of the programs and approaches in place within the elementaries to attempt to support those students. This work is on-going and includes current work on assisting students who have experienced traumatic experiences.

Ruth took over to discuss the Accuplacer assessment. All students take the arithmetic, reading comprehension and sentence skills tests at the beginning of the year as an initial screen. It is given again during the year to illuminate progress. As background, Accuplacer is used by the state college system as well as CVCC. The test is a computer-driven adaptive test, meaning that the test dynamically adjusts the difficulty of questions depending on the student's prior answer. CVCC finds that students roughly in the middle of the scoring range can make great progress.

Ruth stated that those students who meet the target score receive an award, and they have found this to be a good motivator.

Jon closed by complimenting the staff. CVCC has provided great value to students who are suffering.

Penny pointed out that much of the information presented is available on the CVCC website: <http://www.cvtcc.org>.

Ed asked what the programs are. There are 12: Culinary, bake shop, human services, cosmetology, electrical, plumbing, automotive, building trades, natural resources, digital media arts, emergency services, pre-tech. There are also co-op (work-based) learning opportunities for students.

Ed inquired about the former stone trades program. Discussion ensued about the possibility of re-instituting the program, to which Penny responded that a committee is now in place to discuss the future of tech education, as the state may discontinue support for programs that do not meet certain criteria (e.g., those that do not pay solid salaries to program graduates). Penny went on to describe embedded programs she instituted in other schools (e.g., U-32 and Montpelier) that have subsequently been discontinued. Ed expressed interest in re-instituting some of those programs.

IV. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The agenda for the next meeting will be:

- Further updates on proficiency-based learning: Recent and future work, SU-wide connections
- Science update (e.g., NGSS).

The meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of February (the 9th).

Parking lot:

- Departmental updates, for instance on math studio.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick McCraw
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment