

Spaulding High School Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016

Members present:

Joe Blakely, Curriculum Committee Chair
Carlotta Perantoni, Board Member

Others present:

Brenda Waterhouse, Spaulding Principal
Rick McCraw, BSU Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM.

I. Review and Approve Previous Minutes

The minutes of March 8 were approved without change.

II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

No changes were needed.

III. Current status of report cards and proficiency-based learning

Rick described the work taking place in the BSU Report Card Task Force to develop a common standards-based report card for use by BCEMS and BTEMS. Highlights included that the:

- Same report card will be used between BCEMS and BTEMS
- Standards reported will vary by grade level
- Spaulding's report card will be as similar as reasonably possible to those in use elsewhere.
- We have a longer-term goal to move to electronic reporting rather than continuing to rely on a traditional printed report card.

Joe asked if the report card would be ready for fall, and Rick replied that it would not. There is too much work that needs to be done.

Brenda pointed out that Proficiency-Based Learning is all about ensuring that each student learns the key material.

Discussion ensued on students' experience with typing in the earlier grades.

Brenda then spoke about proficiency-based learning (PBL). PBL focuses on clearly defined expectations about what student should know and be able to do. She reminded us that PBL is a state requirement that impacts not only learning but assessment and reporting. One step in this direction is Spaulding's work on transferable skills. Other factors, such as effort and participation, are not averaged in with proficiency scores. This has clear implications for reporting, since while all of this information is not averaged together, it is important still to report it.

Joe asked if the state is providing help on adoption of PBL, and the answer is that very little help is forthcoming due to Agency understaffing. High schools are required to have PBL in place for the class graduating in 2020, so the school cannot wait for the state.

Joe asked if there has been any pushback, and the answer is that "people are going along with it." Staff recognizes that PBL is better for students.

Brenda expects that this will take three to four years to come to fruition.

IV. Flexible Pathways and Community Service Learning

Flexible Pathways (Act 77) has a number of facets. Community Service Learning (CSL) is an effort to build community connections. See separate presentation. Brenda is giving the same presentation to the Rotary on April 13.

Carlotta described a video called “Most Likely to Succeed” that is effective but costly. An older alternative is “Race to Nowhere.”

During the presentation, Brenda mentioned that one goal of CSL (of many goals) is to allow students to see what a given career choice is really like.

V. Preparations for SBAC testing

Two days in, the roll-out has been extremely smooth. Two staff are administering the test. Only grade 11 students are being tested. Testing is rotated through blocks so class impact is spread across various classes.

VI. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

The May meeting will take place on the 9th, reflecting a change to the second Monday of the month (per superintendent request). We agreed that future meetings will take place at 3:00 subject to Joe checking with other board members. We will meet in room 110 to avoid conflicts with students’ use of the library.

Agenda items:

- SHS 2016-17 schedule
- Possible CVCC topic – Rick will check with Penny
- Math Studio and its evolution for 2016-17.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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