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**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
BUUSD Central Office – First Floor Conference Area
August 27, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gina Akley (BT)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Victoria Pompei (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Anthony Folland (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Chris Hennessey, Principal (BCEMS)
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)
Jessica Barewicz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Venus Dean Ashley Dunlea Lindy Johnson Paul Malone

1. Call to Order

Mr. Malone called the Tuesday, August 27, 2019, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held at the BUUSD Central Office in the First Floor Conference Area.

2. Organization of the Committee

Mr. Malone requested nominations for the position of Committee Chair.

Mr. Boltin nominated Mrs. Pompei for the position of Curriculum Committee Chair. Mrs. Akley seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Pompei as Chair of the BUUSD Curriculum Committee.

Mr. Boltin nominated Mrs. Akley for the position of Curriculum Committee Vice-Chair. Mrs. Pompei seconded the motion. There were no additional nominations.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Akley as Vice-Chair of the BUUSD Curriculum Committee.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Review / Approval of Minutes – May 20, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

The Committee agreed by consensus to accept as written, the Minutes of the May 20, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

6. Committee Business

6.1 Committee Goals and Objectives

A document titled 'BUUSD Curriculum Goals and Priorities – Jess' Notes – FY20' was distributed. Mrs. Barewicz provided an overview of the document and queried the Committee regarding their input. Lengthy discussion was held including; improvements to Special Education, improvements for 'high flyers' at the elementary and middle school levels, reviewing information relating to the Continuous Improvement Plan and Professional Development, advising the Board regarding what is in place and improvements under consideration, the possibility of setting up a rotating schedule (with a sensible structure), caution that the previous plan of focusing on

DRAFT

one content area per month was unsuccessful (and follow-up did not occur), devise a method to ‘keep a pulse’ on all aspects in each building (and celebrating accomplishments), administrative teams’ opportunities (meetings are currently held twice per month), focus on alignment of curriculum (including vertical alignment with SHS), time spent focusing on State initiatives, the need to work on providing clarity relating to PLPs (Personalized Learning Plans), the wish to have the elementary and middle schools thriving with extensive STEM and STEAM programs (costs are unknown), expansion of the robotics program, reviewing results of Integrated Field Reviews, and understanding the impact that policies, procedures, and programs have on students. Mrs. Barewicz will draft an annual work plan for the Committee to review. Items for the work plan should include; Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements, STEM/STEAM Programs, High Achievement Programs, Special Education Improvements, PLPs, Assessments, Proficiency Based Learning/Grading, CIP.CFP Grants, In-Service Day Plans (Professional Development), Curriculum to address Social/Emotional needs, Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), Career/Technical Education, the Annual Snapshot, and Integrated Field Reviews. Mrs. Waterhouse provided an overview of the pilot program by ‘The Generator’. The pilot program, to be held at SHS will include a mobile maker-space. Mrs. Waterhouse advised regarding the success of students who ‘worked’ at The Generator in Burlington. Mrs. Barewicz advised regarding the importance of ‘meeting children where they are’, and having a broad and deep enough curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

6.2 Curriculum Support Model

A document titled ‘BUUSD Systematic and Comprehensive Support for K-8 Literacy and Math’ was distributed. Mrs. Barewicz provided an overview of the document, advising how students’ needs are being met, and the supports that are in place, including Literacy and Math coaches and interventionists who assist with grades pre-k – grade 8. Best practice would be a model that includes pre-k through grade 12. Mrs. Johnson provided more detailed information relating to curriculum coaches, advising that they swap schools on a quarterly basis. Mrs. Nye advised that she would like to have a point person for Science as well. Mrs. Nye advised that Jessica Roy has played a pivotal role in aligning science curriculum with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). Mr. Malone queried regarding how the Board could assist with improvements to curriculum. It was noted that data can be utilized to ‘drive’ curriculum improvements. The Continuous Improvement Plan, and the use of grant money also assists with improving curriculum. Mrs. Barewicz advised that a multi-year plan is needed.

6.3 Continuous Improvement Plans Review and Themes

Mrs. Barewicz advised that she has included (in the packet), copies of CIPS for the BUUSD, and for each of the schools (BCEMS, BTMES, and SHS). Mrs. Barewicz is working on a cross-walk document. Board and Committee Members should familiarize themselves with the CIP prior to reviewing the cross-walk. Ben Merrill has developed a more user friendly version of the CIP, but it was not included in this evening’s packet. There were no questions from the Committee.

6.4 Follow-up on 2018-19 Homework Committee

Mrs. Barewicz advised that the Elementary School Homework Committee did not meet in June, and has advised that they do not want to develop the homework policy. The Elementary School Homework Committee has a recommendation; grades K – 2 should read, or be read to for 20 minutes per night, grades 3 – 4 should have 30 minutes of reading or homework per night. Mrs. Waterhouse advised that staff need to be cognizant that many families struggle to read to their children. Mrs. Waterhouse believes homework should be intentional, not ‘busy work’. Ms. Dean believes students should not get homework other than reading and advised that she has read some documentation that said homework was not beneficial. Mr. Boltin advised that he believes homework assists his child academically, and helps him understand his child’s cognition of subject matter. Mr. Malone advised that family dynamics are very different now than they were years ago. The middle school homework committee is supposed to start meeting this year, but has not yet started.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Items for Future Agenda

- Curriculum Committee Work Plan (will be drafted by Mrs. Barewicz)
- Cross-walk CIP to CFP Grants
- Formation of Middle School Homework Committee
- Results of Integrated Field Reviews (November Agenda)

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at BCEMS in the James Taffel Library.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin