

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre City Elementary and Middle School – James Taffel Library
September 24, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Pompei, Chair (BT)
Gina Akley, Vice-Chair (BT)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Anthony Folland (BC) – arrived at 5:36 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Lindy Johnson Venus Dean

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Pompei, called the Tuesday, September 24, 2019, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., which was held at Barre City Elementary and Middle School in the James Taffel Library.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

One correction was noted: The next Curriculum Committee meeting is Tuesday, October 22, 2019 in the BTMES Library.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Review / Approval of Minutes – August 27, 2019 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2019 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. Committee Business

5.1 Curriculum Definition Overview

Copies of the slides from a presentation titled ‘Curriculum Committee 2019-20’ were distributed. Mrs. Barewicz presented the slide presentation which included; an overview of important terms, an overview of curriculum alignment (horizontal – grade level and vertical – progression through years of schooling), alignment to a prioritized set of national standards, definition of what is and is not ‘curriculum’, an overview of assessment terms (Common and Performance based), and an overview of the comprehensive local assessments which include Universal screener, diagnostic, pre-assessments, formative, summative, and standardized assessments. Meeting attendees were provided with a ‘Guess-tionaire’, and were asked to review 5 questions and then share their thoughts with the group. It was suggested that more time be allotted to alignment of curriculum, and that it may be beneficial to have a ‘family friendly’ outline of what students are expected to achieve at each grade level. It was noted that ‘equity for students’ needs to be defined.

5.2 Continuous Improvement Plan Cross-walk Between Schools and with Consolidated Federal Program Grant Investment

Copies of slides from a presentation titled ‘Continuous Improvement Plan Goals’ were included in the packet distributed under Agenda Item 5.1. Mrs. Barewicz continued with the slide show presentation, providing an overview of the cross-walks for CIP Goals #1 (Academic Proficiency) and #2 (Safe, Healthy Schools). Some Committee Members feel the language in the cross-walks is ‘dense’ and would like to see modifications to make it more user-friendly. It was noted that the State requires a defined formatting for the presentation of goals, but that action steps could probably be re-written so that they were more easily understood. The cross-walks were broken down between the BUUSD, SHS, BCEMS, and BTMES. Mrs. Barewicz provided an overview of the CFP Grant Investments broken down by school (BUUSD 17%, SHS 23%, BCEMS 60%, and BTMES 0%). It was noted that although BTMES does not receive CFP Grant funding, BTMES does have many of the same services. The services are BTMES are funded locally.

5.3 Input into Draft of Curriculum Committee Annual Work Plan

A document titled ‘Draft Curriculum Committee FY20 Annual Work Plan’ was distributed. Mrs. Barewicz requested that Committee Members review the document and provide feedback. Mrs. Barewicz provided an overview of the ‘Tuning Protocol for feedback’,

advising that after Committee Members reviewed the document, she would provide answers to clarifying questions, then hold rounds of ‘warm’ and cool’ feedback. Mrs. Barewicz advised that she will type notes to document feedback as it is provided. The draft will be updated based on feedback. The Committee reviewed the document and provided feedback which was documented by Mrs. Barewicz. Committee members were pleased with the comprehensive list, which includes a broad view of curriculum advising that they believe advance notice of agenda items is beneficial. It will be useful to hear from ‘multiple voices’, and meet with individuals who work within the BUUSD. Other input included; changing the order of some of the topics, building in follow-up time for ‘hot spots’, opportunities for staff to advise regarding what is not working well, importance of CVCC representation at meetings, additional topics (enrichment programs, STEAM, Personalized Learning Plans, and social/emotional learning), a format, guidance, and time limit for presentations, and presenters advising regarding their ‘wish lists/wants’. Mrs. Barewicz will update the draft based on feedback, and will present another copy at the next meeting.

5.4 Compose the Direct Charge From This Committee to the FY20 Homework Committee

Discussion of the Homework Committee’s charge included; defining the quality of homework to assign, describing the purpose of homework, identifying how homework should support and connect to classroom learning, identification (by grade) of the level of support and/or independence for home work, and defining how homework is to be recorded and assessed. It was suggested that there be a draft recommendation that could become a BUUSD positive statement on the appropriate use of homework to support learning for all students. Two separate homework committees will be necessary (5 – 8 and high school). Mrs. Waterhouse advised that at the high school level, homework varies by course and that there is no ‘one size fits all’ e.g. there is a significant difference between homework for AP classes and homework for intervention math courses. Mrs. Waterhouse believes the focus for the high school homework committee should be the ‘purpose of homework’. It will be important that the grade 5 – 8 homework committee’s recommendations are such that there is an assurance that students starting at the high school are prepared to do high school level homework.

The K – 4 Homework Committee recommends that grades k – 2 read or be read to for 20 minutes a night and that grades 3 - 4 should read 30 minutes per night. It was noted that if a parent requests homework for their student, homework is sent. The previous Curriculum Director was working on setting up a website with some homework assignments that students could utilize for additional work (when requested).

6. Other Business

None.

7. Items for Future Agenda

Future agenda items were discussed under Agenda Item 5.3.

8. Next Meeting Date –

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mrs. Akley, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin