

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School - Room 10  
December 11, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Victoria Pompei, Chair (BT)  
Anthony Folland (BC)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Gina Akley, Vice-Chair (BT)  
Tim Boltin (BC)

**ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Jessica Barewicz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Chris Hennessey, Principal (CEMS) – arrived at 5:50 p.m.  
Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)  
Brenda Waterhouse, Principal (SHS)  
Erin Carter  
Venus Dean  
Christine Farnham

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mrs. Pompei, called the Tuesday, December 11, 2019, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:39 p.m., which was held at Spaulding High School in Room 10.

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Review / Approval of Minutes- October 22, 2019 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting**

The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2019 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

**5. Committee Business**

**5.1 PK-12 Math Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Presentation (led by Erin Carter – SHS Department Chair and Venus Dean – PK – 8 Math Coordinator)**

Three documents were distributed;

A document titled ‘ALL LEARNERS NETWORK’

A document titled ‘BUSUD Math Self-Reflection for Inclusion and Differentiation in Mathematics Instruction’

A copy of the Power Point presentation from August 28, 2017 titled ‘Pre-K – 8 Mathematics in the BSU’

Ms. Carter addressed the Committee and provided an overview of her role at Spaulding High School, advising that she has been the Mathematics and Statistics Department Chair for the last 9 years. Ms. Carter provided an overview of the curricular area, advising of Common Core standards, and the Common Core Mapping Project that was undertaken to assure that all required standards are covered in Algebra (A & B), Geometry, and Algebra 2. Ms. Carter advised regarding the scope and sequence of the SHS Mathematics Program, advising that students who start at SHS who are not ready for Algebra 1, are enrolled in Connections or Foundations. Students who have completed Algebra/Honors Algebra and Geometry/Honors Geometry, can enroll in Honors Pre-calculus, AP Calculus AB/BC, and Statistics/AP Statistics. New electives include Robotics, Engineering, and Computer Science. Ms. Carter provided an overview of Standards, both long-form and ‘student friendly’. Ms. Carter also provided an overview of standards by standards rubrics that are shared with students. Ms. Carter spoke briefly on lesson plans. Ms. Carter provided an overview sampling of assessment data for 2019, which indicates that SHS students are near or above the Vermont student average. Math interventions available to students include; Math Tutorial (every morning and afternoon, except Tuesday), a Math Interventionist in Tide Pool, one para-educator for IEP students, Special Educator support in the Connections Program, and Math Club and Math League (two extra-

curricular activities to challenge the strongest learners). Students may also opt to take the UVM Math Exam which is held every March. Ms. Carter provided an overview of the process for placement of incoming freshmen and transfer students, and advised regarding the breakdown of placement by level. The presentation also included a brief overview of Professional Development, past and present. Future wants and needs include; more advanced computers for the Computer Science Program, addition of Advanced Robotics, staffing to assist with SAT preparation, graphing calculators for all students, additional math proficient para-educators, CCV concurrent enrollment statistics, and coordination for Credit Recovery and Alternative Pathways Programs. The Committee discussed various ways to obtain graphing calculators. Ms. Carter was thanked for her presentation to the Committee.

Mrs. Dean and Ms. Farnham introduced themselves to the Committee and advised regarding their roles at the BUUSD and their years of service in the BUUSD (16 and 20 years respectively). The goal by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade is to have all students prepared to take Algebra 1 when they enter high school. The Committee was advised about staff training led by John Tapper, Ph.D., and of the goal for all students to have access to grade level mathematics through conceptually based teaching strategies. The ideal lesson structure includes; Launch (a mini-lesson), the Main Lesson (grade level instruction), Math Menus (students select problems from their menus), and a Debrief. The Committee was advised regarding 'Number Talks' and participated in a 'Number Talks' lesson/session. 'Number Talks' involve mental math (improving efficiency, accuracy, and flexibility), help build fluency and math understanding, and promotes the sharing of ideas and strategies (students learn from each other). Professional Development includes completion of the Inclusion and Differentiation Course, focused curriculum work time (creation of low floor, high ceiling tasks, creation of number talks, identifying formative assessments, and creating math menus), reviewing student work and making instructional decisions, access to three Curriculum Camps during June, Professional Development on Number Talks, and participation in the All Learner's Cohort meetings and conferences. A brief overview of the Self-Reflection form was provided. The Self-Reflection form is used for identifying strengths and areas for growth. Continued needs includes; continued efforts to improve inclusion and differentiation, improved content knowledge, longer math class periods (in middle school and for some elementary grades), continued work on Number Talks, expansion of Number Talks to middle school, continued curriculum work that is focused on adapting current mathematics programs to incorporate components learned from Inclusion and Differentiation for Mathematics, and money for family engagement and equity of opportunities (BCEMS has grant money to fund family math nights, BTMES does not). Mrs. Nye advised that BCEMS and BTMES have been working to align the amount of time spent in classes. Mrs. Pompei advised that Mr. Boltin, who could not be in attendance this evening, would like to know how staff identify and provide opportunities for advanced students. Mrs. Dean advised that staff do not go out of their way to identify students who excel.

### **5.2 Review of Annual Work Plan**

A document titled 'Curriculum Committee FY20 Annual Work Plan (revised based on September 2019 Curriculum Committee feedback)' was distributed.

Mrs. Pompei would like to discuss Proficiency Based Grading and teacher expectations for reporting. Literacy has been moved to the January meeting. The regular February meeting falls during February break and will need to be rescheduled.

### **6. Other Business**

None.

### **7. Items for Future Agendas**

PK -12 Literacy Curriculum, Assessment Data, Current Programs, and Support Services

### **8. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the BTMES Library.

### **9. Adjournment**

**The Committee agreed by consensus to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*