

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

Via Video Conference – Google Meet  
September 22, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim Boltin, Vice-Chair (BC)  
Alice Farrell (BC)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Victoria Pompei, Chair (BT)

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

David Wells, Superintendent  
Penny Chamberlin, Director (CVCC)

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Venus Dean                      Karen Fredericks                      Jean Haeger                      Megan Spaulding

**1. Call to Order**

**Mrs. Farrell, called the Tuesday, September 22, 2020, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., which was held via video conference.**

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

None.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Approval of Minutes -**

**4.1 Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2020**

**The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.**

**5. New Business**

**5.1 Curriculum Team Update**

Jean Haeger was introduced to the Committee and provided an overview of her experience and her position (Senior Associate/School Coach) with GSP (Great Schools Partnership), which is a non-profit based in Portland, ME. Ms. Haeger's role is to support the goals of the BUUSD, with her focus being on the Barre elementary and middle schools. Ms. Haeger, Ms. Frederickson (literacy), and Mrs. Dean (math) addressed the Committee and presented a 'slide show', providing an overview of; GSP Support Goals, educational equity, raising marginalized voices, challenging the imbalance of power and privilege, data-informed administrative curriculum, professional learning group structures to enhance teachers' practices & students' learning, an overview of the Summer Curriculum Camps, Professional Development in August and September, after-school professional development (including assessment development), and the curriculum leadership model. Brief discussion was held regarding pre-assessments to assure curriculum is appropriate for students' needs, especially given possible loss of learning last year. It was noted that assessments are still in process. Presenters were thanked for their participation in the meeting.

**5.2 Assistant Superintendent Search Process and Timeline**

A document titled '2020 Assistant Superintendent Search Process and Timeline' was distributed. Mr. Wells displayed the information which is posted on the BUUSD website (under resources). Mr. Wells provided an overview of the information, advising that the posting closed on September 21, 2020, and there are 15 applicants. The search committee will meet to select candidates for interviews. First rounds of interviews will take place 09/24/20 – 10/02/20. The Committee will hold the first round of interviews. Mr. Wells will perform the second round of candidate interviews. Mr. Wells advised that he will present a finalist or finalists to the Board on 10/08/20. Minutes from Search Committee Meetings are also included on the web site. It was noted that there are no internal candidates for the position. Applicants must have or be able to obtain both a Curriculum Directors license and a Superintendent's license.

**6. Old Business**

**6.1 Hybrid Learning/VTVLC Update**

Hybrid learning continues at all three sites, with 2 in-person learning days for students, and 3 virtual learning days. Mr. Wells advised that VTVLC does have a wait list and Mr. Wells has been exploring other options for BUUSD students who remain on the wait list.

Research has included contacting the State regarding other virtual programs. The State does not allow a lot of on-line platforms. One other virtual option is Edmodo. Edmodo requires districts to provide a coordinator and teachers and the BUUSD has no personnel available. Mr. Wells advised that the VTVLC add/drop date is 09/24/20, and that any openings should be known shortly thereafter. Mr. Wells advised that the class size in VTVLC is supposed to be 20 students per class, and that currently the BUUSD has 25 students per class, so adding students to classes is not an option. Mr. Wells advised that it is highly likely that there will be legislation to hold districts harmless for student counts (during COVID), so there should be no financial impact resulting from students who are being homeschooled. Parents who homeschool are responsible for providing curriculum and any associated costs. Mrs. Spaulding addressed the Committee to express the hardship and frustrations she is experiencing under the hybrid model. Mrs. Spaulding does not believe her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student is receiving adequate instruction under the hybrid model. Mrs. Spaulding is very frustrated that she feels no instruction is being provided to her student, who at grade 3 cannot work independently. She advised that teacher interaction involves a ten minute check in and no instruction is provided. Mrs. Spaulding is concerned that Barre children will fall so far behind, that the schools will not have adequate staff to provide the support students will need upon return to in-person learning. She believes her child is suffering academically and emotionally. Mrs. Spaulding has been in contact with her child's teachers and the building principal and they have advised that they are doing all that can be done. Mrs. Spaulding advised regarding the importance of in-person learning for students in grades K-5 and queried regarding when the school will be expanding the number of children in each in-person classroom. Additionally, Mrs. Spaulding queried regarding utilization of the Denmark Pod Model. Mr. Wells advised that expanding classroom capacity will be challenging; including maintaining social distancing guidelines and the extensive time involved in the entry screening process. Mr. Wells advised that BTMES continues to have 'traffic jams' during screening/entry time. Mr. Wells is not familiar with the Denmark Pod Model, but can look into it. It was noted that the State has approved schools to move to phase 3 of the school opening plan. Phase 3 does allow for some shortening of social distance spaces, but moving to Phase 3 will require much planning and input from staff before it can be instituted. Mr. Wells advised that for the current time, the BUUSD will continue to operate under phase 2. In response to queries, it was noted that the VTVLC curriculum is different, but that the same learning standards/proficiencies are applied. At the present time, Mr. Wells does not know when all in-person learning will be instituted. Mr. Wells requested that Mrs. Spaulding contact him tomorrow to discuss her specific issues with the hybrid model.

## **6.2 Annual Work Plan**

Mr. Wells displayed the draft FY21 Work Plan, and provided an overview of the document, which currently contains mainly suggestions for overviews of various assessments throughout the year. Mr. Wells queried the Committee regarding items to be added.

Two items were added;

November – Update from the Regional Advisory Board, and

January – Strategic Planning Group (begins its work – The Curriculum Committee will provide ongoing input to the Strategic Planning Group).

This agenda item will be added to the October Agenda.

## **7. Other Business**

None.

## **8. Items for Future Agendas**

- Annual Work Plan (October)
- Meeting Students Where They Are – Updates on Assessment of those in hybrid and virtual instruction (K-12) (October)
- Anti-racism Curriculum in Our Schools – including plans for an equity audit (November)

## **9. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

## **10. Adjournment**

**The Committee Agreed by consensus to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea Poulin*