

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

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 26, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Pompei, Chair (BT)
Tim Boltin, Vice-Chair (BC)
Alice Farrell (BC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

David Wells, Superintendent
Mary Ellen Simmons, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Brenda Waterhouse, SHS Principal

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Malone

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Venus Dean Christine Farnham Karen Fredericks Jean Haeger

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Pompei, called the Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 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

Delete 5.6 - Future Meeting Feb 23 (Feb break) Need to Change? (Duplicate of Agenda Item 9) – Keep as placeholder
Add 5.7 – Great Schools Partnership

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 Approval of Minutes for December 1, 2020 Curriculum Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 What Does Intervention Look Like at BUUSD?

A copy of the presentation titled ‘What does Intervention Look like at BUUSD?’ was distributed. Ms. Simmons addressed the Committee providing an overview of interventions at the BUUSD (past, present, and future). The presentation was displayed on screen. Ms. Simmons proceeded with the presentation which included how to create support systems based on Vermont Multi-Tiered System of Supports from the Agency of Education. The MTSS is a continuous improvement plan, which includes development of a systemic and comprehensive approach which includes high quality instruction, effective collaboration, and a comprehensive assessment plan. Ms. Simmons provided an overview of the key components which are based on research (based on Dufour’s work). It was noted that students receiving intervention services, continue to receive general classroom instruction that all students receive. Intervention services are driven by data, and include creation of intervention groups, holding students to high standards, variability in instruction, use of multiple modalities, and flexibility in instructional practices. Ms. Simmons advised regarding interventions in Math and Literacy for students in grades K – 3 and high school. Social/emotional learning is also addressed. Ms. Simmons advised regarding intervention services provided in a ‘normal’ year, and those that will be provided to address additional challenges resulting from changes to curriculum/learning due to the COVID pandemic, including outlining priorities and development of a Recovery Plan. The document will continue to evolve. Mr. Wells advised regarding the Recovery Plan which includes reviewing resources and funding. The Recovery Plan includes a review of data and identifying key priorities. Planning will include a review of teaching strategies and prioritizing students that are highest in need. The BUUSD is approximately one month ahead of the State in working on a Recovery Plan. Mr. Wells advised regarding multiple assessments (to determine the level that students are at on particular skills), comparisons to state and national ‘norms’, additional testing in math, and testing on a vertical level. Mr. Wells advised that there are multiple ways in which students’ needs are addressed, including remediation by classroom teachers and interventionists, summer programming, and continuing interventions in the fall including differentiated instruction. Instruction is supplemented, no supplanted.

Teacher coaching is critical. The BUUSD needs to invest in teachers and support them in their ability to teach to a wide variety of students. It is necessary to provide continuous coaching to teachers.

Mr. Malone advised that based on personal observation, he is concerned regarding some poor teaching practices and has great concerns regarding how the students will be able to catch up. Ms. Simmons advised that there is currently very focused, data driven work being performed to improve instruction and intervention. Mr. Wells advised that much is being done to adapt curriculum to better assist students.

In response to a query, Mr. Wells advised that planning for a very robust summer program is currently in development. The structure of summer programs is dependent on the status of COVID, but it is hoped that the summer program will have an in-person component.

5.2 Review of BUUSD Assessment Plan

A document titled 'The BUUSD Plan for Assessments for 2020 – 2021 School Year' was distributed. Ms. Simmons provided an overview of the district-wide assessment plan, including; regular assessments (3 times per year for literacy and math), SBAC testing (covering math, literacy, and science), and progress monitoring/growth testing. Assessment data is used to identify those in need of interventions. Additional testing includes STAR 360 Math assessments. Ms. Simmons advised that the BUUSD is currently in an 'assessment window', but that assessments are ongoing. Mr. Malone would like the Board to receive continuous updates on assessment data. Reporting may be provided to the Committee and then be passed along to the Board. Mr. Boltin queried regarding whether or not we have a clear understanding of how far behind the students were before COVID. Mr. Boltin would like to know if currently deficiencies are related to COVID or existed prior to COVID and because of COVID, are amplified. Mr. Wells advised that SBAC assessments were not performed last year, but data should be available for prior years and that data could be used for comparison reasons. Mrs. Pompei advised that SBAC data is provided to the Committee each year.

5.3 Vision, Mission, Strategic Plan Update

Mrs. Farrell advised that Winton Goodrich is working with the Design Team and is holding feedback forums. The Vision, Mission, and Strategic Planning initiative is a work in progress.

5.4 Equity Work Process for the District

Ms. Simmons advised that she and Mr. Wells are currently working with Vermont Law School students Arielle King and Jameson Davis and are in the process of creating community collaborative groups to hold discussions regarding equity. Arielle and Jameson will facilitate the community discussions. These discussions will help shape the equity policy, which will assist with creation of procedures, and will be followed by professional development relating to racial equity.

5.5 Annual Curriculum Work Plan

A document titled '2020 – 2021 BUUSD Curriculum Work Plan' was distributed. Ms. Simmons advised that the document reflects the work of the Curriculum Team, not the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Pompei advised regarding how the Curriculum Committee has worked over the past few years, and advised that she prefers that the meetings be informational sessions rather than work sessions. Mr. Malone advised that looking forward; he would like to see the Curriculum Committee make recommendations relating to improvements. Mr. Wells displayed the Work Plan template previously used and suggested that the document be updated to reflect what the Committee would like to see in February. Mr. Boltin would like the Committee to focus on what can be done to get students caught up as soon as possible. Mrs. Farrell would like to see the implementation of the Recovery Plan to help move students and staff forward and queried if there is anything that is needed from the Board to assist with moving forward. Mr. Wells advised that a draft of the Recovery Plan could be presented in February. Mrs. Pompei requested that at the February meeting, the Work Plan be 'fleshed out' for March 2021 and beyond.

— 5.6 Future Meeting Feb 23 (Feb break) Need to Change?

5.7 Great School Partnership

Mrs. Farrell queried about the availability of a calendar of events for activities that the Great Schools Partnership has planned for BUUSD schools. Mrs. Farrell also queried regarding how GSP, curriculum coaches, and professional development are connected. Ms. Simmons advised that she and Jean Haeger usually meet twice a week, meeting with various groups of staff members. Ms. Haeger also meets with various groups within the school. Ms. Haeger advised that GSP sees her role as more of a coach than a consultant. In a coaching capacity, she works collaboratively with school and District leadership teams to build capacity so that individuals within the schools are doing the work with Ms. Haeger facilitating meetings. Mrs. Farrell reiterated her request to view a calendar. Ms. Haeger has weekly and monthly calendars of her meetings but does not have a calendar of activities. Ms. Simmons advised of other work that is performed outside of meetings. It was confirmed that curriculum coaches are BUUSD staff members. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding how the success of curriculum coaches is measured. Ms. Simmons advised that the success of what is being done will be evaluated at the end of the year (by Ms. Simmons and Mr. Wells). It was noted that the coaching cycle is data driven and results are reviewed to assure that students are moving in the 'right direction'. Additionally, at the end of each coaching session, there is an informal interview between the teacher and the coach which is used for documentation.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Other Business

Mrs. Farrell queried regarding the status of reports to the State. Mr. Wells advised that many reports are automated and some are sent at the end of the year. Mrs. Farrell is concerned that the AOE may hold Districts to a specific calendar and does not want to miss any deadlines. Mrs. Farrell would like the Board to support administrators with anything they need to assure that reporting is timely.

At Mr. Malone's request, Mr. Wells committed to provide a Staffing Gaps report to the Board at their meeting on Thursday, 01/28/21.

8. Items for Future Agenda: Update from Regional Advisory Board CVCC

- Revisit Interventions (in place to help students catch up)
- Revisit Fleshing Out of Work Plan
- Update from RAB Board / CVCC Including How Curriculum is Provided Remotely
- Presentation of Draft Recovery Plan

9. Next Meeting Date: February 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference – Google Meet

10. Adjournment

The Committee Agreed by consensus to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin