

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

Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 27, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Renee Badeau, Chair (BT)
Alice Farrell, Vice-Chair (BC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Boltin, (BC)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Erin Carter	Brendon Eaton	Christine Farnham	Karen Fredericks
Jean Haeger	Ben Matthews		

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Badeau, called the Tuesday, April 27, 2021, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:34 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 March 30, 2021 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2021 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Presentation: Review Math and Literacy Services Provided For Students

A copy of the presentation titled 'PreK – 8 Math/Literacy Curriculum Updates (dated 04/27/21)' was distributed. Ms. Farnham (Math Instructional Coach at BCEMS) began the presentation on how the district is working to support student growth. The presentation included information on; narrowing the District's focus (identifying essential standards, implementation of specific high leverage strategies, and monitoring data to inform instruction), work with the 'All Learners Network' (tools, inclusion, equity, and lesson structure {Launch, Main Lesson, Math Menus, and Closure/reflection}), and Differentiation in Math Menus (just right math time), including small group instruction. Ms. Farnham provided additional information relating to Math Menus, including menu preparation. Menus include choice (including must do's and can do's) and differentiation. Preparation includes use of a boiler plate. Math Menus include problem solving, skills practice, a game, and a section for reflection. Ms. Farnham displayed a Math Menu and 'walked' through an example. Math Menus usually cover a period of at least 2 weeks. Ms. Farnham advised regarding math priorities going into the 2021 – 2022 academic year. Ms. Simmons advised that the BUUSD is aware that there are significant learning gaps in math (due to COVID), and advised that work is being performed to help close those gaps. In response to a query, it was noted that there is currently no planned collaboration time, but it is hoped that it will be added into next year's schedules. Ms. Fredericks (Literacy Coach for BCEMS and BTMES) began the presentation on supporting student growth in literacy, advising that the structure is very similar to math, but does not include any official Menu. Literacy lessons include a Beginning Routine, a Main Lesson, Independent Time, and Closure (reflection). Pre-K through 2nd grade (learning to read) includes five components (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). In grades 3 through 8, students are 'reading to learn'. Literacy skills are imbedded into learning content, where students improve on various skills (writing, speaking, focusing on content and connecting ideas, summarizing content, and identifying main ideas). Ms. Fredericks advised regarding curriculum priorities for the 2021 – 2022 academic year, including; improved efficiency of imbedding literacy into other subjects, increased opportunities, alignment of reading and writing assessments, and utilizing data to inform instruction. Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of math and literacy

interventions at the elementary and middle school levels, noting that assessments are performed throughout the school year, to assist with determining interventions. Ms. Fredericks advised that instructional coaches plan and facilitate professional development, facilitate data analysis (to inform curriculum), and implement coaching cycles with classroom teachers (based on teachers' goals). Ms. Simmons stressed that instructional coaches are essential to change teachers' practices. Ms. Carter (SHS Math Department Chair) began a presentation on math curriculum at the high school level. The presentation included; an overview of curriculum (Math Best Practices with Student Discourse and Common Core Math Practices), Common Core Standards at the high school level, and the Common Core Mapping Project (used to assure that Standards are met). Curriculum includes; Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, Foundations, Connections, Math 180, and Special Education. These various courses/curriculums are necessary to 'meet students where they are at'. Additional courses include honors classes for Algebra and Geometry, Pre-calculus, AP Calculus AB/BC, Statistics and AP Statistics. Additional electives include Robotics, Engineering, and Computer Science. Ms. Carter displayed an example of Standards and advised regarding assessment data. Additionally, Ms. Carter advised regarding interventions, which have been limited this year due to COVID. Additional interventions include the "Tide Pool", Math Club, Math League, and Summer School. Both Math Club and Math League are differentiated to provide challenge to Spaulding's strongest learners. Next year will include a new program titled Inspiration and Ideas (to assist Foundations students who have had difficulty attending school this year). It was noted that 8th graders take placement assessments, and transfer students are administered a transfer test. BCEMS and BTMES 8th grade students usually have very similar placement test scores. Ms. Carter displayed a report indicating the placement breakdown for years 2017 through 2021. Ms. Carter provided a brief overview of Professional Development and of class structure. There were no questions from the Committee.

5.2 Literacy Night Author Visit and Family Meeting for Required Grant Eligible Schools

A literacy event was recently held, and included a visit by a guest author. A Title I Family Meeting preceded the event and free books were distributed. The author will return to BCEMS to hold a writers workshop with students.

6. Old Business

6.1 Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan Update

Mrs. Spaulding reported that the Design Team is working to narrow the Vision and Mission statements, are finalizing the goal matrix and developing a timeline for when to achieve the goals. A more detailed presentation will be given to the Board on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

6.2 Equity, Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Force Updates

A policy has been drafted and brought to the task force. The draft is being edited and will be brought back to the Task Force. The finalized draft will be presented to the Policy Committee in May. There has been much input from community members. Task Force members are participating in professional development. This Thursday (04/26/21) will be the 3rd of 5 sessions with Dr. Luvelle Brown. A mixture of teachers and community members are participating in this training.

6.3 Barre 35 Growing Learners; Closing Gaps

Those working on the Recovery Plan have been meeting with those working on the Vision, Mission & Strategic Planning Committee, in an effort to align the Barre 35 Plan with the Strategic Plan. Collaboration includes building strategies together, and ensuring that the Barre 35 Plan includes the same components. The Data Plan will be submitted this week.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Items for Future Agendas

- Allied Arts – May

Next year, Allied Arts will be broken out, with one presentation being given each month.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin