

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
BUUSD Central Office and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 16, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Venus Dean Christine Farnham Karen Fredericks Jean Haeger Ben Matthews
Lorraine Morris

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Badeau, called the Tuesday, November 16, 2021, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., which was held at the BUUSD Central Office and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 September 28, 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 September 28, 2021 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Introduction of Curriculum Team

Mr. Hennessey advised that the current Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment has resigned from her position and will be finishing up this week. Mr. Hennessey is very confident that good progress can be made through the rest of the year. A decision has been made not to replace Ms. Simmons with an interim Director of Curriculum. There will be a thoughtful process to fill the position for next year. It was noted that the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment position entails two areas; curriculum, instruction & assessment, and grant management (which is a very large piece).

Mr. Hennessey advised that the Curriculum Team has been invited to attend this evening's meeting, and asked team members to introduce themselves. Team members provided a brief overview of their experience within the District. The following are the individuals and their current position within the District:

Christine Farnham – Math Instructional Coach
Lorraine Morris – Literacy Instructional Coach
Karen Fredericks – MTSS Coordinator
Venus Dean – Math Interventionist at BCEMS

Jean Haeger – Great Schools' Partnership – introduced herself and advised how she has been working with the District to improve curriculum and instruction.

5.2 Plan for the Year

Ms. Dean reported that upon learning of Ms. Simmons exit, the Curriculum Team advised Mr. Hennessey that they would like to develop a Curriculum Steering Committee, in part, to evaluate current systems. They would like to document where students were pre-covid, and evaluate them now to see how much ground has been lost, and create a 3 year professional development plan to move the District back in the direction it needs to go. Great Schools' Partnership would be very involved in this process. It is hoped to develop more written curriculum materials, similar to what the Virtual Academy had last year. Ms. Haeger expressed her appreciation for the thoughtful Recovery Plan that was written this year, as well as the Strategic Plan. These documents provide a clear roadmap of where the District is headed. Mr. Hennessey advised that there will be a hard, close look at what the District wants to 'get from this position', and will possibly involve restructuring the entire Curriculum Team. The District needs to assure that curriculum development encompasses grades K – 12. Mrs. Farrell noted that the District has been 'behind the 8 ball' since before COVID. So much time has been spent planning and changing plans. Mrs. Farrell wants to know what is actually being done to assist the kids in improving their skills and mastering the necessary math and literacy skills. Mrs. Farrell expressed frustration that through many years of 'planning', and the number of years that the Team Members have been in the District, kids have flat lined all the way through and we haven't seen any improvement in test scores to show that students are mastering the necessary skills. Mrs. Farrell queried that if the District is spending all its time planning, when are plans going to be implemented that will really help the children? Mrs. Farrell reiterated that the District was below the 'red line' pre-covid and that covid only pushed the District further below the red line. There are '2 elevator floors to go up'. Ms. Dean reported that prior to covid, the District had (in the Math Department) been working on differentiation and inclusion, training all teachers in the District, and she believes progress was being made. Ms. Dean believes that teachers are currently 'maxed out' and can't handle much more curriculum other than the day to day work. Ms. Dean believes the District needs to hold discussion regarding how students are assessed (not just SBAC testing). Ms. Fredericks noted that the 'history' of those on the Curriculum Team makes them aware that students are not making the gains that are necessary, and is what has brought the Team Members to the positions that they are in now. Team Members want to assist teachers in improving curriculum and she believes their existing relationships with staff will assist with this effort. Ms. Fredericks advised regarding the use of Professional Learning Committees that are currently in place. Mr. Hennessey advised that in the short term, there will be planning for upcoming Professional Development days and a lot of work going into the process of choosing the next Curriculum Director. There will be a lot of ground level, coaching level, 'working with kids' work from now until the end of the school year. Mr. Hennessey will be working on an updated Work Plan for the remainder of the year.

6. Old Business

It was noted that the Allied Arts presentation slated for this meeting has been postponed.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Items for Future Agendas

Mrs. Farrell is concerned that test results from fall testing have not been shared. For transparency reasons, Mrs. Farrell would like fall testing results shared at the January meeting. (Already in the Parking Lot).

Mrs. Farrell would like to have a future agenda item for local formative testing, which includes what is being tested and what the results are, (e.g., have 3rd graders learned their 9 X tables).

Mrs. Farrell would like a report on how all of the planning thus far has impacted students/student learning.

Agenda items for the January meeting are to be determined.

Add to Parking Lot:

- Local Formative Testing, Including Results
- Report on How Planning to Date Has Impacted Student Learning

9. Next Meeting Date

The December 28, 2021 meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the BUUSD Central Office and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Badeau, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin