

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
May 5, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Renee Badeau, Chair (BT) – Chair
Sarah Pregent (BC) – Vice Chair
Rachel Aldrich-Whalen (BC Community Member)
Melissa Battah (BT Community Member)
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)
Chris Parker (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Farrell
Terry Reil

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Deering, II Karen Fredericks Karen Heath Josh Howard

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Badeau, called the Thursday, May 5, 2022, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 April 7, 2022 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Committee voted 5 to 0 to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting. Ms. Battah abstained.

The Committee held introductions.

5. New Business

5.1 Restructuring Table

A document titled Restructuring Table (May 5, 2022) was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview of the restructuring table, advising that she is currently the MTSS Coordinator, and starting 07/01/22, she will be the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The Grants and Data Coordinator position replaces the MTSS Coordinator position. The position has been posted and is still open. This position will involve grant related work (grant writing and follow-up reporting), as well as coordination of data, which includes assessment data (state and local). MTSS Coordinator work will be split between the new position and the Director of Curriculum. An unfilled interventionist position has been shifted to a Math Coordinator, and it is hoped that the Literacy Coordinator position will be grant funded. These positions existed in prior years, and staff members have advised that reinstating these positions would be beneficial. Math and Literacy Coordinators will report to the Director of Curriculum. Math and Literacy Coaches report to building principals. The District plans to reinstate math and literacy nights in the coming year. Details will be forthcoming. Mrs. Farrell requested that at some point, there be a summary report advising of the number of new positions being created.

5.2 Student Progress/Growth (snap-shot) Future Plans for Improvement

A document titled ‘Fall 2021 Progress of Gr. 5-8 Students in Literacy Intervention’ was distributed.

The report was written by two BTMES Literacy Coordinators. General–education literacy intervention is available to all students who

need assistance. Need is determined through two assessments. Additional assessments are performed for students flagged as needing urgent intervention. Interventionists are currently working with 63 students. Not all students receiving intervention services have IEPs. When necessary, students are further evaluated to determine if they qualify for Special Education. BCEMS interventionists have been 'in the loop' regarding the new methods being utilized at BTMES, and the new intervention methods will be implemented at BCEMS next year. In response to a query regarding services for students who excel, it was noted that those students are receiving the services they need during WIN (What I Need) blocks. A parent expressed concern that his students are reporting that they are not receiving challenging work in WIN.

5.3 Status of District-wide Proficiency Based Grading/Assessment/Reporting

Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview, advising that the District is working on building cohesion between the District's schools, calibrating work samples, working to design curriculum for units of study (utilizing proficiency based standards), and designing assessments and evaluations. Rubrics are in place and there is a basic understanding of how proficiency based grading works, though work is necessary to assure that students understand how it works. Work needs to be performed to assure that report cards are useful tools (for students, parents, and faculty). It will be necessary to provide opportunities to educate parents regarding how to best interpret report cards. It is hoped that these items can be addressed by the end of next school year. A parent queried regarding how parents can better understand proficiency based learning and grading. Concern was expressed that various teachers have different understandings of proficiency based learning/grading, and that there are not enough personalized comments on report cards. Ms. Battah believes it would be beneficial to provide ongoing education for parents whose children are just entering the school system, and for those parents who have not experienced the United States education system. It was suggested that an educational video be posted on the District's web site, and that perhaps the video include answers to frequently asked questions. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding a timeline for the work that needs to be completed. Ms. Fredericks would like to see some clarity provided prior to the end of the first quarter next year. Ms. Leclerc queried regarding the District's goal for student proficiency. Ms. Fredericks advised that substantial growth can take many years, but is hoping to see faster improvement under the new structure and utilizing new methods of intervention. Ms. Fredericks would like to see each student make at least one year's worth of growth each year. It will be important to utilize professional development to assist teachers with the ability to provide students with what they need. Ms. Battah queried regarding utilizing community volunteers to work with students. A community member stressed the importance of setting goals, and advised that he would like to see a goal of 50% proficiency by the end of next year. The Committee agreed on the importance of the District investing time and resources to improve proficiency. A community member suggested that teachers complete an anonymous survey regarding what they feel they need to assist them with supporting improvement.

6. Old Business

Ms. Leclerc, referring to the 03/10/22 minutes, queried regarding clarification of diagnostic assessments and use of data to improve learning. Ms. Fredericks advised this will be available by 06/24/22, but not everything may be communicated to all staff until the start of next year. Use of Diagnostic Assessments Data to Assist Teachers with Identifying Student Needs will be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Leclerc queried regarding survey results from the February teacher Beliefs Survey (regarding students' availability to learn etc.). Mr. Hennessey advised that there were many responses to the survey. Ms. Leclerc requested that the responses be compiled and shared.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Items for Future Agendas

- Use of Diagnostic Assessment Data to Assist Teachers with Identifying Student Needs (Parking Lot)

Brief discussion was held regarding compilation of an organizational chart which includes all staff. It was noted that this would be more appropriate at the Board level, rather than the Committee.

Ms. Leclerc queried regarding the number of students taking SAT tests, and any data regarding the percentage of students who plan to attend college. Ms. Leclerc queried regarding the number of students taking AP courses. It was noted that the District does track information regarding what students are doing after high school, and that this information is available on the web site.

Ms. Parker queried regarding discussion of #2 from the Restructuring Table document (Curriculum work at the Board level). Brief discussion was held regarding this matter, and the role of the Curriculum Committee. Brief discussion was held.

The AOE Annual Snapshot will be shared at the Board level.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

This meeting may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. Ms. Badeau will touch base with Committee Members a week before the scheduled meeting date, and a final decision will be made.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Pregent, seconded by Ms. Parker, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin