

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
November 3, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Pregent (BC) – Chair
Paul Malone (BT) – Vice Chair
Rachel Aldrich-Whalen (BC Community Member)
Melissa Battah (BT Community Member)
Nancy Leclerc (At-Large)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chris Parker (BT)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Chris Hennessey, Superintendent
Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Boltin
Terry Reil

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Carpenter Josh Howard Sue Paxman William Toborg Hayes Walker

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Pregent, called the Thursday, November 3, 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

James Carpenter addressed the Committee, advising that he is attending the meeting, to advocate for reinstatement of the PSTL Program (Problem Solving Through Literacy) at Barre Town School. Mr. Carpenter advised that at the last meeting at which he addressed this Program, he left the meeting feeling that the PSTL Program is something that should be looked at again at BTMES. The meeting at which it was discussed included community and Board Member feedback that lauded the Program and the benefits it provides to students. Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of some of the benefits of the program and requested that the Committee or the Board reach out to constituents who either had students in the PSTL Program, or were students themselves. Mr. Carpenter is disappointed to see that the PSTL Program has been removed from the Committee's Parking Lot and advised that its removal gives the impression that this Committee and the Board hope the Program 'goes away quietly'. Mr. Carpenter noted that the Program was cut without teacher, student, or community input. Mr. Carpenter advised that at a recent meeting, someone announced that the 'teacher no longer wanted to teach the program'. This is misinformation. Mr. Carpenter advised that he was the teacher for this Program and he has always advocated for the Program. Mr. Carpenter advised that though BCEMS has enjoyed a reading enrichment program for the past three years, BTMES has not. Mr. Carpenter advised that in spite of numerous inquiries, no one has been able to tell him why PSTL was cut. Mr. Carpenter noted that this Program has been a cornerstone of BTMES for 25 years. Mr. Carpenter noted that as the District commits more and more money towards areas and positions that have very little or no interaction with students, and will not impact student learning, test scores, or enjoyment of school, Mr. Carpenter requests that the Committee and the Board consider putting some of those funds back towards engaging, enriching, student centered programs (like PSTL). Mr. Carpenter thanked the Committee for their time. It was noted that PSTL was originally suspended due to COVID (students could not be co-mingled). Spring of 2020 was the last time PSTL was held. This is the 3rd year that the school has been without the Program. Mr. Carpenter advised that after COVID restrictions were lifted, no one could/would advise him regarding why the Program was not reinstated, and additionally advised that the (his) position of 'Reading Enrichment' is still in the budget, though he was moved into a regular 7th grade ELA teacher position. Mrs. Pregent is of the understanding that the Program was still in the budget. Mr. Hennessey would like Ms. Pearson in attendance for discussion of this Program. This item will be added to the next Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 October 6, 2022 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2022 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Curriculum Department Organization Flow Chart

An organizational flow chart was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the flow chart which advises on how her position interacts with administrators, Instructional Coaches, Teacher Leaders, Interventionists, the Grants and Data Coordinator, and an administrative assistant. Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the responsibilities of each position listed in the flow chart, and advised regarding the number of positions at each school. Ms. Fredericks answered questions from the Committee. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding the start and end time at SHS. Mr. Hennessey advised that students are dismissed at 2:45 and teachers are expected to be at the school for an additional 20 minutes (3:05 p.m.). Teachers are present to give students assistance from 2:45 until 3:05. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding the change in student dismissal time and if it shortens the instruction time for students. Mr. Hennessey advised that the student day is part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as well as the contract (and is done in minutes), and doesn't shorten the academic day, but creates different opportunities for students to access teachers. It was noted that there are different ways in which students can access help and support from teachers, including; before and after school, as well as on PAS days.

5.2 Percentages: Student Drop-out Rates and School Completion Rates

An untitled document containing statistics relating to Spaulding High School was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the local data included in the report which was generated on 06/02/22. It was noted that most of the categories had fewer than 5 students, and therefore data could not be provided (due to the risk of identifying individual students). Overall, there were 86% of students who graduated or were returning. It was noted that drop out data is difficult to define as many districts report data differently. Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview of the data provided by the AOE (dated 10/26/22).

5.3 Use of Diagnostic Assessment Data to Assist Teachers with Identifying Student Needs

A document titled 'Diagnostic Assessment Data to Assist with Identifying Student Needs'

Ms. Fredericks is presenting the data on behalf of a faculty member. Ms. Fredericks provided definitions of some of the terms contained in the document and advised how the assessments assist with identifying strengths and weaknesses. The assessments can be utilized for students who are above or below grade level. Ms. Fredericks believes the data pertains to 35 third grade students. Data is presented for the Fall of 2021 and the Spring of 2022. Ms. Fredericks advised that this assessment provides data for very specific skills, and informs instruction. Lengthy discussion was held including; far fewer students needing interventions (compared to last year), deficiencies in a previous program and how a new program (more phonics based) is benefiting students, additional information relating to the data, and various assessments by grade, including additional diagnostics based on assessment results. Mr. Hennessey advised that SBAC testing will no longer occur and that information relating to its replacement will be forthcoming. Ms. Fredericks answered questions from the Board. Ms. Paxman queried regarding programs for students who excel. Mrs. Pregent advised regarding previous discussion of embedded honors and AP classes at the high school. Ms. Fredericks reported that differentiation is used in grades Pre-k through 2, and advised regarding what is available for the remainder of elementary school grades and the middle school, including the WIN (What I Need) block. In response to a query, it was noted that there is not cohesion between the schools (BCEMS and BTMES). Mrs. Leclerc requested that additional information be provided at a future meeting (for those needing interventions and those who excel). Ms. Aldrich-Whalen, Mrs. Battah, and Mrs. Pregent advised regarding their students' experiences. Mrs. Poulin voiced concern regarding the total amount of academic time that was lost by shortening the school day at SHS (from 3:05 dismissal to 2:45 dismissal). Mr. Malone believes it's important that the District not hold back learning from the 'high flyers' especially students at the high school level that will be continuing on to higher education and qualify for scholarships at SHS. Mrs. Leclerc is concerned regarding equity, serving all students equally (those who need assistance and those who excel).

6. Old Business

None.

7. Items for Future Agendas

January:

- Fall Climate Survey
- PSTL Program
- WIN Programs – Presentation/Details

February:

- DSA – Developmental Spelling Analysis – February
- Consolidated Federal Programs – TBD

Restorative Classrooms will be added to a future Board Meeting (BCEMS Principals will be asked to provide information in their Building Report).

Mr. Howard requested that the Committee discuss homogenous classrooms.

Mrs. Pregent will send Mr. Howard information regarding proficiency assessments. This matter was discussed at the August meeting.

Mrs. Battah queried regarding holding discussion of staff training for students with autism.

SHS Schedule – Information will be put in the Building Report

Ms. Fredericks advised regarding upcoming literacy nights; November 9, 2022 at BTMES and November 16, 2022 at BCEMS. These events are open to all families.

8. Next Meeting Date

The December 1, 2022 meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Battah, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin