

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
January 5, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Pregent (BC) – Chair

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Farrell
Terry Reil
Sonya Spaulding

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Heath Darby Hiebert Josh Howard Sue Paxman

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair, Mr. Malone, called the Thursday, January 5, 2023, 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

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Battah, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 November 3, 2022 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Fall Climate Survey: Update on Next Step

A document containing Fall Climate Survey information for BTMES grades 3 – 5 was distributed.

A ‘worksheet’ for documenting observations, inference, and questions/next steps was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of work that has been performed since the Climate Survey was completed and advised that work is ongoing. Work performed includes; (SHS) preparation of data analysis with staff (safety is the biggest ‘red flag’), (BC elementary level) re-roll out of the Positive Behavior Support Committee (including identification of universal language, expectations and routines), (BC middle school level) identifying universal language and routines as well as discussion of more age appropriate relationship based restorative practices, (BT elementary level) Ms. Fredericks will be meeting with administrators next week for discussion of next steps, (BT middle school level) use of a teacher led scheduling committee, and interest in a project based seminar (for student engagement, and staff led ‘community building’). Ms. Fredericks advised regarding changes between the spring and fall surveys, noting the importance of longitudinal data. In response to a query regarding how the District knows when it is ‘where it should be’, it was noted that future survey responses will provide information regarding school climate. It was noted that the survey rates items between 1 and 4. A score of 3 would be considered ‘proficient’ and a score of 4 would be considered ‘perfect’. Brief discussion was held regarding the demographic breakdown of data. It was noted that the spring 2022 climate survey was the first of its kind. In response to a query regarding measurement of ‘culture’, administrators advised that data pertaining to less controlled environments (e.g. lunch, recess, hallway transitions, transportation etc.) has implications on behavior in classrooms. In response to a

query regarding goals for low scoring categories, Ms. Fredericks advised that she believes the 'Protocol Document' contained in the packet will assist with goal setting. It was noted that the survey questions do not define what areas (classroom, hallway transitions, recess etc.) responders are rating. Brief discussion was held regarding the escalation of disruptive behaviors. It is believed that increasing clearly defined expectations, building routines and building relationships will assist with behavior issues. Concern was voiced regarding the impact unfilled positions have on teachers' ability to teach while dealing with disruptive behaviors. In response to a query, Mr. Hennessey advised that the District engages with parents when possible. Additional discussion included; concern that there needs to be more emphasis on parental responsibility and a query on how/what will be done to improve student achievement.

5.2 Intervention and Enrichment Programs

A document titled 'BUUSD Enrichment and Intervention Examples' was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks advised regarding enrichment blocks, where students are placed in classes that are targeted to meet their needs (supports for those below, at, and above grade level). Ms. Fredericks is interested in improving and clarifying these enrichment blocks and has asked that staff provide her with information so that she can build a 'library' of enrichment activities. Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview of the Enrichment document included in the packet. A community member advised that he believes enrichment blocks are a good idea, but need to be improved because he does not feel his children's needs are being met. It was clarified that the enrichment block is in addition to core classes. Darby Hiebert (BTMES 5th grade Social Studies teacher) provided an overview of some of the units planned for the literacy enrichment block she teaches. Karen Heath (Instructional Coach for BCEMS and BTMES) addressed the Committee and advised that she is currently meeting with teachers at each grade level to review data and adjust enrichment blocks and groupings to better meet the needs of students. Mrs. Farrell queried regarding how differentiation and continuous progress impact student behavior in the classroom. Ms. Parker queried regarding how WIN curriculum is shared between BCEMS and BTMES. Ms. Fredericks advised that the new 'library' of enrichment block examples is available to all teachers. In response to a query from Mrs. Leclerc, Ms. Fredericks advised that the teachers make the decisions regarding enrichment activities for students. Mrs. Leclerc, citing concerns she has received from parents, queried how success/achievement is measured for students who are above grade level. In response to a query, it was noted that enrichment curriculum is not currently available to parents. A community member thanked staff and administrators for providing input this evening and encourages other staff members to attend and provide feedback. A community member suggested that the District explore having homogenous classrooms to better meet the needs of all students in core classes. Mr. Malone advised that he has received several phone calls from parents requesting that the PSTL Program be reinstated, and queried regarding whether or not the WIN (What I Need) Program was a substitute for PSTL. Ms. Fredericks advised that WIN isn't a substitute, but rather an equitable philosophy, and that all students deserve the opportunity to have grade level instruction. Ms. Fredericks noted that the District is lucky to have WIN time built into the regular schedule. Mr. Malone noted that the District shouldn't 'hold back' students who 'really want to learn' and that sentiment is what parents have conveyed to him. Mrs. Leclerc advised that prior notes indicate it was agreed that additional discussion was going to take place regarding reinstatement of the PSTL Program and it was supposed to be added to the next agenda. Mr. Hennessey reported that he realized that discussion had been held at the April meeting, he thought the matter had been put to rest, and was surprised that the issue was raised again. Mr. Hennessey advised that discussion in April indicates that what the PSTL program was years ago has evolved more to the WIN philosophy and approach. Mr. Hennessey advised that discussion was quite detailed. Mrs. Leclerc recalls the discussion, but advised that it was her understanding that the Committee was supposed to have a follow up discussion because community members are asking why the program was terminated, other than for COVID reasons. Mrs. Leclerc queried regarding whether there has been a lack of interest in the Program. Mr. Hennessey advised that the Program was not discontinued because of COVID, that it was discontinued prior to COVID. Ms. Fredericks advised that there is an opportunity for a challenge reading course, that there is a position in the budget, but it hasn't been filled. Mrs. Leclerc suggested that the Committee hold a more formal discussion on the matter. Ms. Fredericks read a letter from Mrs. Pregent expressing her points on this matter, including her belief that in the past students were pulled from core classes to attend PSTL, so they were missing necessary/required curriculum and that it was limited and exclusionary and limited to who could receive those opportunities, and that with the current interventions and WIN classes, all students are receiving what they need. Mr. Hennessey advised regarding a 'showcase' video that was released today (a WIN class with above grade level students from BCEMS). Mr. Hennessey advised that there is still room for improvement for all students.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Other Business

Mr. Malone queried regarding SBAC scores. It was noted that SBAC scores were embargoed by the State and are not available to the public yet. The State has moved away from SBAC assessments. Cognia is the new statewide assessment vendor. Cognia assessments will be given in the spring of 2023. Local assessments for literacy and math are aligned with Common Core. Those below grade level will be given another battery of assessments. Mr. Howard advised he would like to see how assessment scores of the District compare to those across the state, and requested that the data provided in August be broken down by school. When the data is available to share, Ms. Fredericks can provide a breakdown by school.

8. Items for Future Agendas

February Meeting:

- DSA – Developmental Spelling Analysis (A from Parking Lot)
- Professional Development (C from Parking Lot)

Add to Parking Lot:

- Cost/ Benefit Analysis of Effectiveness of Curriculum Consultants – (Alice Farrell / January 2023)
- Assistance and Guidance for Staff with Emergency or Provisional Licenses – (Alice Farrell / January 2023)

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mrs. Battah, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Poulin