

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
February 2, 2023 - 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)
Chris Parker (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Karen Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Farrell
Sonya Spaulding

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pamela Ahern
Michael Boutin
Cassandra Demarais
Karen Heath
Sarah Helman
Josh Howard
Bern Rose
Rachel Van Vliet

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mrs. Pregent, called the Thursday, February 2, 2023, BUUSD Curriculum Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library and via video conference.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Malone, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes -

4.1 January 5, 2023 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Leclerc, seconded by Mrs. Battah, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2023 BUUSD Curriculum Committee Meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 DSA – Developmental Spelling Analysis

A document titled ‘Fall to Winter Developmental Spelling Analysis Growth Comparison’ was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the document, noting that the ‘at or above’ proficiency rate has risen from 51.39% to 59.08%. Ms. Fredericks advised that the data represents a broader approach (all students in grades 2 through 6). An increase of .5% or higher indicates that students are on track for more than a year’s worth of growth. Data has been broken down at the classroom level, which

will allow faculty to identify where more supports or interventions are needed. Mr. Malone queried regarding the availability of a side by side comparison with fall 2022 data. Ms. Fredericks advised regarding the literacy component represented by the data.

5.2 Professional Development

A document titled 'BUUSD Professional Development' was distributed.

A document titled 'January PD Feedback Summary' was distributed.

Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the process for selecting and planning for professional development. In the past there has been a steering committee to make professional development recommendations. Ms. Fredericks is working with the BEA President to get this steering committee back in place. In lieu of the steering committee, Ms. Fredericks has been taking direction from professional learning group facilitators, curriculum leaders, team leaders, and administrators. Additional feedback will be received from other District personnel, from each of the buildings, and over different grade levels. Ms. Fredericks provided a brief overview of Professional Learning Groups, the Coaching Model, the Mentor Program, co-planning, and co-teaching. It was noted that there is also District aligned professional learning (including the use of data analysis and program related training), as well as external learning opportunities (per the contract). Non-contract related training is also available and is subject to approval and various conditions. Mrs. Farrell voiced a 'continuing concern' regarding the lack of reporting by outside contractors who provide professional development (numbers of staff trained, specific training provided etc.). Ms. Fredericks advised contractors do not submit reports, but she does distribute a survey for staff feedback. Ms. Farrell requested that a survey summary report be provided towards the end of the academic year. Mrs. Farrell suggested that there may be staff members whose expertise is equal to or greater than what some of the outside contractors provide. In response to a query, it was noted that attendance at professional development days is required. A community member suggested that it might be beneficial to have a volunteer group of parents provide input on professional development days, to provide a different perspective on providing services to special needs students (e.g. autistic, Down Syndrome). A community member expressed her appreciation for this evening's discussion and queried regarding the ability for community members to attend professional development days so that they may be better informed/prepared on how to work with children in the private sector. Mrs. Pregent will forward Ms. Rose's request to Ms. Fredericks so that she can reach out and advise regarding the best way for community members to receive training. Ms. Fredericks answered additional questions from the Committee, including; creation and alignment of curriculum and standards, addressing accessibility issues, availability to participate in mentorship, the lack of definition from the State on what schools should be teaching, designing curriculum based on defined standards that need to be met, challenges faced by students who transfer in from other districts, challenges posed when teachers create units in isolation (more alignment is necessary), the need for continuity in instructional practices, loss of momentum during the pandemic, staff turn-over, the loss of 'release time' during the day due to the lack of substitutes, the use of grant funds to provide this opportunity outside of the normal work day, and the low response rate to the mid-year check-in survey. Mrs. Heath, instructional coach, advised regarding the new math programs the mentorship program, and confirmed that her work spans both of the elementary and middle schools (in an effort to improve alignment and equity). It was noted that the new math program just started this year and it is too early to see the benefits or consistency for students entering the high school. Ms. Fredericks cautioned that research and best practices seem to change frequently, so adjustments need to be continually made. Ms. Fredericks provided an overview of the survey results from the January Professional Development survey. Information will be provided regarding the number of teachers and para-professional staff (to assist with determining the percentage of PD attendees who responded to the survey).

6. Old Business

None.

7. Items for Future Agendas

Brief discussion was held regarding the ability of receiving/reviewing SBAC scores (from Spring 2022) broken down by school, including how the District's schools compare to other schools in the state. (Data is currently embargoed).

Mrs. Pregent requested that Mrs. Battah and Mrs. Whalen e-mail her regarding their interest in continuing on the Committee for another year.

The March Agenda will be determined by the 'new' Committee.

Add to Parking Lot:

- Summary of Overall Feedback from Professional Development Days (do at end of summer) (requested by Alice Farrel – February 2023)
- Feedback on Coaching Model (April or May) (requested by Nancy Leclerc - February 2023)
- Review of SBAC Scores

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is to be determined.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Leclerc, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin