

**BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**
Spaulding High School Library and Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 3, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Farrell (BT), Chair (arrived at 6:02)
Garrett Grant (BC)
Bern Rose (BC)
James Carpenter (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Catherine Whalen (BT)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Moran Karen Moran Megan Spaulding Rachel Van Vliet Nathaniel Fredericks

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Fredericks, Director of Curriculum, called the Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 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. Election of Chair

Ms. Rose nominated Mrs. Farrell for Chair, seconded by Mr. Grant. Nomination passed unanimously.
Motion by Ms. Rose to have a revolving Vice Chair as needed, seconded by Mr. Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None

4. Public Comment

Mrs. Fredericks shared it Autism Awareness month and educators wearing Autism Awareness garb celebrated diverse learning styles .
Spaulding High School play “Clue the Musical” is happening Thursday and Friday night , and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available online.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 October 4, 2023 Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

It was discussed that the minutes occurred with previous committee members and with all new committee members not being present it was decided to accept the minutes as written.

Ms. Rose moved to accept the minutes as written for October 4, 2023, seconded by Mr. Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

6.1 Business of the Committee

Mrs. Farrell handed out copies of the Agency of Education District Quality Standards. An article titled “Influence of School Boards on Curriculum” from the Association for Curriculum Development, published February 13, 2023, was provided by Mrs. Farrell. Vermont School Board Association has a very succinct set of questions about committees and how they function.

Set a foundation by going through VSBA questions (top four are the most important):

- What is the purpose of the Committee?
- What is the authority of the committee?
- What are the responsibilities and limitations?
- What are the specific tasks?

Purpose of the Committee: Actionable ways to support the district and this group having more meaningful impact or influence. Perhaps deeper dives into data sets and doing analysis. Bringing in more community members to participate to look for patterns as stakeholders who have an influence on how the community sees the work that's happening in our schools. Larger, broader view and help guide our school. Let's talk about, think about, and hash out ideas of what we want to see in our schools with recommendations to the larger school board and community. The direction of where we're going in this big picture. Trends, impact of catching up from the pandemic learning, and lack of permanent housing the effect that is having on academic performance. The Director of Curriculum is working on a coordinated curriculum that's vertically and horizontally aligned. Still a work in progress but this spring we should have PK to graduation threads that can be traced for every content area. The next step would be aligning performance indicators, looking for gaps and overlaps with what teachers are teaching. There's a disconnect for PK-8 to High School which this is really going to help bridge. Vertically - what happens in K relates to what happens in 1st grade, and so on. Horizontally - What's happening in 5 first grade classrooms are all aligned. Building consistency between the two PK-8 schools so when going into Spaulding have the same background knowledge. Goal post for this year is to have those threads identified. A lot of next year will entail performance indicators and scope and sequence.

Authority of the committee is really information gathering.

Responsibilities and limitations: Student achievement to see how curriculum leads to student achievement. Look for interventions, support and resources to address. Opportunities to enrich students who may already be proficient and make sure they're also experiencing growth too. Structured literacy program (foundational skills) is a pilot program at the high school in our 2nd year with our K-8 classrooms. Important piece is public awareness.

Specific Tasks:

7. Old Business

None

8. Other Business

None

9. Items for Future Agendas

Moving forward with a new Director of Curriculum. Mr. Grant would like to be on that hiring committee. Summer School schedules in the next building reports, Board meeting not at the committee meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at Spaulding High School Library and via Google Meet.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Ms. Rose, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Gilbert