

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

TSO Curriculum Conference Room 5:45 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Bob Belden. Harry Shaker, Colette Sturm (BOE); Marc Balanda, Mark Jewett, Liz Spencer (BHS); Deane Renda (WMS); Joanne Thompson (K-12 Health and PE); and Maureen Ruby (TSO)

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m.

1. Joanne Thompson: Discussion and Presentation on Human Growth & Development Unit for grade 5 New Sexual Assault/Abuse Curriculum Program. Joanne discussed the current state legislation and requirements regarding instruction in Human Growth And Development in grade 5 with specific focus on the mandates related to Sexual Assault and Abuse. She explained the *Second Step Child Protection Unit* and underscored the alignment of the curricular tool with the National Health Education Standards, which come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Materials were reviewed and the Grade 5 Scope and Sequence was shared. CAPE made a motion to recommend that the BOE approve the presented health curriculum (Sturm). The motion was seconded (Belden) and passed unanimously. Joanne Thompson will be available prior to the BOE meeting on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the BHS Library Media center to share the curricular materials with BOE members. Please see the Scope and Sequence document, as well as two documents on the standards alignment.

2. Marc Balanda, Deane Renda, Mark Jewett, Liz Spencer developed a presentation on high school credits awarded in math and world language for coursework taken at WMS. Mr. Balanda facilitated the presentation/discussion (please see PowerPoint handout). The building and curriculum leaders unanimously supported the currently proposed language in the Board Policy regarding awarding high school credit for middle school coursework:

*Proposed BOE policy revision 6146.3 Seventh and eighth grade students who earn a grade of "C" or better during the regular academic year, for a course offered in the Brookfield High School Program of Studies, that carries the same requirements (i.e. approved course of studies, time, final exams, and certified teachers, as courses offered in grades 9-12) shall have these courses applied to high school prerequisite course sequence requirements. Such courses shall earn high school graduation credit, satisfy requirements, and be entered on the official high school transcript. Seventh and eighth grade students shall receive appropriate recognition for completion of these courses on their report cards.*

As seen in the PowerPoint slides, the Policy impacts two specific courses that meet the guidance set forth in the policy: Spanish II Honors and Geometry. Written guidance for implementation of the policy is as follows:

Geometry:

Students are placed in this course upon successful completion of Pre-Algebra in 6th grade and Algebra in 7th grade along with favorable results on an Orleans-Hanna assessment.

Spanish II-Honors:

Students are placed on an accelerated Spanish program upon entering 6th grade based on their previous coursework in Spanish as well as a written and oral assessment to demonstrate mastery of concepts. Once in the accelerated Spanish program students take 7th grade Spanish in 6th grade, 8th grade Spanish in 7th grade, and Spanish II Honors in 8th grade.

3. Marc Balanda presented an update on Capstone at BHS. (Please see PowerPoint presentation). Mr. Balanda began with a refresher on the legislation related to Capstone as a high school requirement:

- **Public Act [15-237 - 2015](#)** “...(c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2021...(E) a one credit senior demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education;...”

2017-18 BHS Program of Studies - Winter 2016 Includes offerings for incoming 9th grade (Class of 2021) ○ Includes graduation requirement for a one credit Senior Demonstration project.

- **Substitute Senate Bill 1026 - Spring 2017 “...(c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023. (5) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment”**

The work this year began working from Public Act 15-237 and its target graduating class of 2021. With Substitute Senate Bill 1026 that was introduced this spring, not only is the target graduation class changed (2023), but the proposal now identifies a one credit "mastery-based diploma assessment." Mr. Balanda is convening a Capstone Site Visitation Committee to review exemplar capstone/capstone-like models in Connecticut. Mr. Belden appointed Ms. Sturm to the committee. Visitations will take place in the fall.

4. Maureen Ruby discussed the convening of a District Handwriting Committee. The goal of the committee is to identify how resources in our current curricular tools are being used to provide instruction in penmanship (printing in K-2 and cursive beyond) and to develop guidelines for curriculum and professional development needs. Please see:

5 Brain-Based Reasons to Teach Handwriting in School

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201609/5-brain-based-reasons-teach-handwriting-in-school>

5. Good of the Order:

Mrs. Sturm provided comments on the recently held Assessment Meeting for parents, which was held last month at WMS. She noted that parents expressed a need for more information regarding assessment and terminology. Dr. Ruby reported that school based parent assessment meetings are in the planning stage and will be held at CES, HHES, and WMS prior to release of End-of -Year benchmark data reports to parents. Schools are looking at parent assessment report letters for revision. Additionally, an assessment glossary will be developed.

Ms. Sturm also reported on parent concerns regarding report card clarity. Dr. Ruby explained that report card revision is a complex undertaking. The foundation for standards-based reporting is standards-based grading. During our curriculum revision process, the curriculum assessments (formative, unit, etc.) will be aligned to standards taught to provide a well-articulated system for measuring and reporting progress of students.

Adjournment was at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Maureen Ruby  
Assistant Superintendent