

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION (CAPE) COMMITTEE

Wednesday May 10th, 2023

Curriculum Room, TSO

6:10pm

MINUTES

1) Call to order at 6:16

Present Michael Murphy, Rosa Fernandes, Debbie Brooks, Anna Mahon (Assistant Superintendent), Julie Vaughan (K-4 ELA instructional coach)

2) Public Comment

None

3) Proposal-new K-3 universal screener for reading (and math)

Dr. Mahon and Ms. Vaughan gave an update regarding K-3 CSDE reading and progress that has been made this year. They offered a presentation outlining the first step in the process, which is to switch to a state approved and fully vetted K-3 universal screening assessment for both reading and math. The presentation outlined the process that was followed throughout the year, including the committee makeup, the review process followed, specific information about the screener that was selected by the committee (mClass Dibels), and a cost comparison of budget neutral. In addition, the committee discussed the impact on the universal screening process for the entire district as this committee review process prompted a review of all screeners currently employed by the district. Based on conversations held with both curriculum review committees (math and reading) this year, as well as with instructional coaches and administrators, observational data collected through school use of screeners, curricular data, and student data, the proposal also includes transitions away from STAR as a universal screener to using it for individual diagnostic purposes and transitioning the use of Acadience through grade 8 for reading. Math will use a variety of other data points in lieu of a true universal screening assessment to identify specific skill weaknesses and areas in need of improvement. The motion was made and accepted for mClass Dibels to become the universal screening assessment for K-3 reading and math for the 2023-2024 school year.

4) Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation for the 2023-2024 School Year

Dr. Mahon gave a brief update on the plan for teacher and administrator evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year. Based on guidance from CSDE, there will be a new framework for teacher and administrator evaluation for the 2024-2024 school year, which will be a shift from a strict accountability model to a growth and support model. As such, the CSDE flexibilities that began in the 2020-2021 school year have been extended through the 2023-2024 school year. A motion was made and accepted to continue the use of the flexibilities for teacher and administrator evaluation through the 2023-2024 school year as outlined by the CSDE.

5) Updates:

a) Screener and diagnostic testing adjustments

Dr. Mahon reviewed the adjustments to other screeners and assessments for the 23-24 school year as outlined in the presentation given earlier.

b) Middle school adjustments based on “right sizing”

Dr. Mahon shared information about adjustments to the WMS daily schedule that will be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year based on the removal of 5th grade and to incorporate student choice (and voice) around elective classes.

c) Vision for PD for 2023-2024

Dr. Mahon gave a brief overview regarding the plan for professional development for the 2023-2024 school year. The topic is “communication” with a theme of “enhancing practice through vertical alignment.” Teachers will be placed into thematic PreK-12 “pathways” which will be focused around a specific area/questions that align to the strategic plan, curriculum development, dispositions of the Portrait of the Graduate, etc. Some PD sessions will be whole-district, while others will be subgroups to focus on specific tasks and questions. Teachers will indicate their top 3 choices of pathways prior to the end of this school year. A launch will take place during the initial teacher days for the 2023-2024 school year.

d) Expectations for DESSA information

The second installment of the DESSA screener will be completed by Friday, May 26th by teachers. Data analysis will take place this summer and will, initially, be completed by district and building admin with a plan to incorporate teachers and service providers during the 23-24 school year to assess trends.

6) Illustrative math follow up presentation and discussion

A brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming/yet to be scheduled special meeting of the BOE to follow up on questions posed at the May meeting around the suggested adjustment in curricular tool for K-8 math. The CAPE committee continues to support the proposal of bringing Illustrative Math to Brookfield to support math instruction.

7) Strategic Plan alignment exercise- Communication

Tabled due to time

8) Good of the order

N/A

9) Adjournment-7:55pm