

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Zoom Invitation- 5:45 p.m.

Minutes

Present: BOE CAPE Subcommittee Members: Joy Greenstein. Jennifer Laden, Michael Murphy
Deb Farias, Director of Instruction; Marc Balanda, Principal BHS; Deane Renda, Principal
WMS; Andrew Hill, Department Chair STEM BHS; Robert Zapor, STEM Teacher, BHS;
Maureen Ruby, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 by Ms. Laden.

There was no public comment.

In an effort to keep the CAPE subcommittee members informed on curricular “happenings” and innovations in instruction, two presentations were scheduled.

First, there was a presentation by Andrew Hill, STEM Department Chair at BHS, and Robert Zapor, STEM instructor, on upcoming implementation of Whitebox Learning software in Technology Education courses. This detailed the innovation to employ an online standards-aligned STEM learning system to ensure all learners have access to the curriculum, anywhere, anytime.

Next, Deane Renda, Principal at WMS, presented on the grade 7 Social Studies unit “America: The Birth of a Revolutionary Mindset” Unit: Integration of the Arts. This project was initiated during the 2019-20 school year and was supported through grant funding to provide arts enrichment in social studies content. Unfortunately, the unit was not carried out, as planned, due to schools going remote in March. Mr. Renda shared the background to the initiative, including the collaborative work undertaken by the grade 7 social studies teachers, the WMS art and music teachers and Arts for Learning CT. Arts for Learning CT artists will be “artists in residence” at WMS, co-teaching with the social studies teachers (virtually or in-person – depending on the current state of operation). Art instruction will be embedded within the social studies instruction. Students will study examples of art (paintings, music and lyrics, etc.) aligned with the social studies unit on the American Revolution. Students will explore the alignment of the art “texts” with the historical period of the revolution and expand upon their understanding of conflict and protest through the lens of artistic expression.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ruby