



BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE: Dr. Linda Tsoumas, Chair (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Judith Houle, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (present)

VISITORS: None

MINUTES

- I. Call Subcommittee meeting to order
Dr. Tsoumas called the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
None
- III. Subcommittee meeting minutes for approval
 - A. November 12, 2013
MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting, as presented. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.
VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously
- IV. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
 - A. District-Determined Measures Pilot
Mr. Cameron provided an update on the District-Determined Measures (DDMs) Piloting plan for Early Grade Literacy, Early Grade Math, Middle Grade Math, High School Writing to Text, and Traditionally Non-Tested Grade/Subject (Art/Music). For Early Grade Literacy, the district uses DIBELS as an assessment tool for grades K-6, and it is listed by the DESE as an appropriate assessment for use as a DDM. For Early Grade Math and Middle Grade Math, the district has identified grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 as pilot grades, and the online assessment tool, Acuity, will be piloted. This tool is also listed by the DESE as an appropriate assessment for use as a DDM. For High School Writing to Text, the district is working with the Collaborative for Educational Services to create, select, and pilot DDMs, with a focus on challenging and engaging English learners and limited language proficient students. For Traditionally Non-Tested Grade/Subject areas, the district has identified music as the pilot area and district-wide music educators have met to identify current practices that could be used as DDMs.

B. Pilot of Edwin Teaching and Learning System

Mr. Cameron reviewed the pilot of the Edwin Teaching and Learning System, which is a two-part system that provides various teaching resources and tools. The first part is Edwin Analytics which provides analysis on assessment data. The second part is Edwin Teaching and Learning, which is divided into curriculum tools, digital resources, and student assessment tools. The Edwin system creates a warehouse and means to collect data. Mr. Cameron noted that this system is currently free to Race To The Top districts, and training is being provided to administrators and instructional technologists, who may then train other staff members.

C. Update on Honors Mathematics plan for grades 6-11

Mr. Cameron stated that representatives from Jabish Brook Middle School and Belchertown High School met on December 19, 2013 to initiate discussion around Honors Math classes. This group will meet again on February 13th to review a draft plan and begin curriculum writing for Honors courses. A discussion then took place regarding the timeline in which Honors courses would be offered.

V. Unfinished business

Dr. Houle stated that she had met earlier today with various administrators regarding an implementation plan for the PARCC assessment tool which will be piloted in late spring.

VI. New business

None

VII. Subcommittee correspondence


- A. Agenda: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, February 11, 2014
- B. Minutes: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, November 12, 2013
- C. Memorandum regarding District-Determined Measures Pilot

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting at 6:59 p.m. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by,




Kathryn A. Petersen

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee members' signatures:

 _____, Linda Tsoumas, Chair

 _____, Michael Knapp, Member

The mission of the Belchertown Public Schools is to ensure that every student meets with success every day. To that end, we pledge to ensure that we have rigorous, standards-based curriculum; instruction designed to meet the needs of diverse learners in every classroom; and access to the global learning community via state-of-the-art technology in schools that are communities of respect and civility for all.

2011-2015 Strategic Plan Goals (adopted by the Belchertown School Committee, 3/1/11):

- Goal #1: To have guaranteed (standards-based and implemented by all), viable (doable and accessible to every student), seamless K-12 curriculum in every content area.
- Goal #2: To have rigorous (standards-based), relevant (grounded in 21st Century skills), differentiated instructional practices with the ability to access the global learning community via technology available to every learner.
- Goal #3: To implement a plan to ensure that our students understand the importance of acceptance, tolerance, and respect supported by all adults in the community.

The Belchertown Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee of the School Committee conducts its business in open session pursuant to Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The public is welcome to comment only on items on the agenda for this meeting as noted above. If you wish to address the Subcommittee regarding an item not on the agenda for this meeting, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 413.323.0423 or via email at superintendent@belchertown.org to determine the best way to address your concerns.