



April 26, 2016

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Minutes

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BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
April 26, 2016

- PLACE:** Swift River Elementary School Library
- TIME:** 6:00 p.m.
- SUBCOMMITTEE:** Dr. Michael Knapp, Chair (present); Dr. Thomas Laughner, Member (present)
- ADMINISTRATION:** Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Shawn Fortin, Director of Teaching & Learning
- VISITORS:** Myndi Bogdanovich

Minutes

- I. Call Subcommittee Meeting to order
Dr. Knapp called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. March 8, 2015
Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to accept the minutes of March 8, 2016 as presented.
Second: Dr. Knapp
Vote: 2,0,0
- III. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
- IV. Items for action/Discussion

Success for Every Student Every Day

A. Curriculum review cycle

Dr. Fortin presented. He noted they moved Guidance up along with PE. Dr. Fortin wanted it noted that with the present budgeting process, it is not a battle between science and music. The district schedule has science and technology to focus on first, music is on the cycle for 2019. The science budget was changed from \$45,000 to \$18,500.

Dr. Laughner questioned the 4-5 assessment. Dr. Fortin noted that hopefully teachers are keeping track. A 2017 Science/Technology committee is being formed. Looking by year 3 to not need Dr. Fortin to oversee any longer. Science/technology frameworks are new. There are big gaps in the new frameworks. Some content going from grade 8 to grade 7 and grade 3 to grade 2.

Dr. Knapp noted it would be helpful if it was communicated to teachers and parents exactly what administration does.

B. Competency-based education (Tacoma Model)

Dr. Knapp questioned the Tacoma Model and how we get beyond state standardized testing. Dr. Fortin noted this is part of his plan. With new frameworks some components of standards cross curriculum, such as math practices, science practices. There is some similarity across each. At the next meeting, discussed should include district leadership to look at establishing common themes. The committee discussed how to develop competency and opportunities to add other things that might be important. The committee discussed what Dr. Fortin had done in his prior district. Dr. Fortin noted that is is a similar situation.

C. Open education resources

Dr. Fortin spoke about a digital literacy group. Some of the resources being used are Kahn Academy and PBS. There doesn't seem to be any framework that they are choosing. Superintendent Coffin noted it is not organized as yet. The committee discussed other avenues to pursue with regard to online resources. It was noted that Massachusetts has an open depository which was not utilized much. Dr. Knapp questioned what the advantages of open ed would be. Dr. Fortin noted; cost, availability, accuracy, interactive, in some cases immediate assessment. The committee discussed some of the resources that teachers are currently using, power school, google classroom at JBMS, class dojo, are some.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business at this time.

VI. Subcommittee correspondence

- A. Agenda, April 26, 2016
- B. Minutes, March 8, 2016
- C. Curriculum Review Cycle

VII. Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to adjourn at 6:45 pm


Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 2,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee members' signatures:

 _____, Michael Knapp, Chair

_____, Thomas Laughner, 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.

The Belchertown Personnel & Policy Subcommittee conducts its business in open session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 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

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the School Committee 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.