



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 25, 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. February 11, 2014
MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 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. Update on Edcamp professional development day
Mr. Cameron stated that the district held an Edcamp professional development day for the second year in a row on March 14th, and he said it was a great success. 47 sessions were well-attended and there was much positive feedback from faculty members. Mr. Cameron noted that sessions on the new bullying regulations were incorporated into the schedule and were conducted by Dr. Houle. Paraprofessionals were also included in the day, and they attended a three-hour morning session on autism, presented by Mr. Jason Litto, in addition to participation in an afternoon session. Mr. Cameron stated that lunch was provided by the PTOs and he expressed his appreciation for their contribution.

B. Update on new math curriculum implementation

Mr. Cameron stated that BHS is currently piloting new math resources, as well as working on finalizing Honors Math 9 curriculum, and he noted that this curriculum will help in the creation of Honors Math 8 at JBMS. Discussion then ensued with regard to Pre-Calculus and Calculus courses and their availability to students based on a student's academic progression through prerequisite math courses. Dr. Knapp indicated that he would recommend that more seats be made available for students to enroll in advanced math courses at JBMS.

C. STEM program for JBMS & BHS

Dr. Houle discussed the revised draft of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Standards, stating that this document is an outgrowth of current science standards. She said that the state's Board of Education has been moving slowly on this, but as a result of vacancies in faculty in our district in the upcoming school year (Tech Ed teacher and Physics teacher), we have an opportunity to offer more technology-based learning by incorporating the STEM program at JBMS and BHS.

Dr. Houle then reported that she and Mr. Cameron had met with Dr. Knapp and Dr. Michael Knodler at UMass Amherst on February 21st to discuss the STEM program, and specifically its engineering component, with regard to implementing it in Belchertown. She added that science offerings could be revamped at the middle and high school levels, and curriculum with a focus on technology/engineering could potentially be developed over the summer. Dr. Houle then presented a short video of the UMass TBL (Team Based Learning) classrooms, and stated that Dr. Knodler has invited her to tour these classrooms, along with a group of teachers, administrators and students. She said that visits to various high schools using the STEM program will also be planned. Dr. Tsoumas asked if there was a possibility of grants becoming available in the future for the implementation of STEM, and Dr. Knapp said he does not anticipate any funding for this program as of yet. Dr. Tsoumas also suggested that site visits be scheduled to Springfield Technical Community College and/or Porter and Chester Institute so that it could be learned where the gap lies between what the expectations are in math and science classes in college vs. where students' end point in high school has been in those courses.

V. Unfinished business

None

VI. New business

None

VII. Subcommittee correspondence

A. Agenda: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, March 25, 2014

B. Minutes: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, November 12, 2013

C. Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Standards, Revised Draft

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting at 7:01 p.m. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

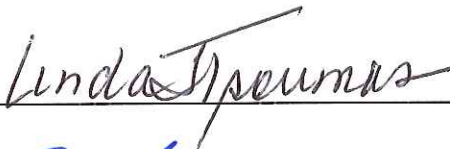
Respectfully submitted by,

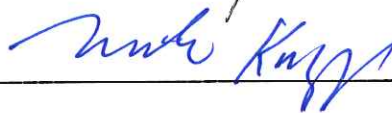


Kathryn A. Petersen

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.