

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Curriculum and Student Development Committee  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
5:30 PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Steven Pynn called the meeting to order at 5:35

**Members present:** Cathy Miller, Mary Ann Connelly, Steven Pynn

**Also present:** Seth Klaskin, Dr. Cooke, Gail Dahling-Hench

**Recorder:** Steven Pynn

I. Textbook Adoption: *Give Me Liberty*

Speakers: Peter Nye

The presentation was of a AP History textbook that has undergone the textbook adoption process and reviewed by teachers, students and department heads. The text is being recommended as it is both challenging, has an online component and a proper balance between historical narrative and preparation for the AP Exam. It is noted that the district has moved away from using textbooks to teacher developed curriculum however AP is the exception.

II. Presentation: Focus Schools Response Plan

Speakers: Frank Henderson, Brown Principal; Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal; Elizabeth Battaglia, Ed.D. Director of Special Education.

The presentation focused on the response plan to the accountability index and the strategies of both Brown and Polson Schools to move off of category four as a focus school. Both Brown and Polson were identified in the 2017-18 school year for the high needs subgroup falling in the bottom 10% of those groups respectively. For Polson this was in the area of ELA for the high needs subgroup and for Brown it was in the area of Math. To exit focus status a school needs to demonstrate growth in two years out of three.

Both schools presented five areas of response as follows:

- Reallocation of resources
- Training
- Student test familiarity
- Examination of standards
- Accommodation determination

Each school currently has one year of credit toward the two out of three growth years.

Both principals expressed confidence that they are on track for exiting focus status based upon school data.

The Response Plan has resulted in increased participation of Special Education staff in general education meetings, data teams and trainings. Coaches are working with teachers on appropriate goal setting and instructional strategies. Teacher teams are analyzing the questions and areas students seem to be struggling with and adjusting instruction. Students are being involved in understanding their own targets and tracking their own progress.

Board member comments centered on questions regarding the test taking culture and commendation for involving the coaches more in supporting the Special Education staff.

III, Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35p.m.

*The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at [ferranted@madisonct.org](mailto:ferranted@madisonct.org) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.*