

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

TSO Curriculum Conference Room

5:45 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Call to order: 5:45 p.m.

Present: Colette Sturm, BOE; Bob Belden, BOE; Maureen Ruby, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Baldwin, Director of Athletics; Marc Balanda, Principal BHS; Dean Renda, Principal WMS; Joe Sapienza, Dept. Chair - Social Studies BHS; Mike Smith SS teacher BHS; Aggie Burns, Curriculum Specialist- WMS

1. Discussion of Social Studies Curriculum Revision: Members of SS Curriculum Team

An update of the work being done to revise the K-12 Social Studies curriculum and its alignment with the new Connecticut Social Studies Framework was presented by Maureen Ruby, Principals Balanda and Renda, and members of the District Social Studies Committee (above). The group presented the challenge of providing a comprehensive social studies program of studies aligned with the state standards and frameworks given the current schedule for social studies instruction in K-6, with a particular emphasis on the program needs for instructional time in grades 5 and 6.

Currently, in grades K-6 Social Studies is not taught fulltime, but rather in K-4, time is shared with science and world language instruction. In grades 5 and 6, Social studies is taught during a time period that alternates with instruction in world language. In effect, students receive one year of social studies instruction over the grade 5-6 two year period. Concerns regarding the need to provide students with the full complement of social studies instruction in the lower grades was discussed.

Specific highlights of this need included consideration for students to

- have adequate time for instruction in reading primary sources
- develop research skills and the writing of informational text and argument in social studies
- have the opportunity to learn the content articulated in the frameworks,
- be provided with a coherent program of studies in social studies that is vertically aligned (the impact of middle school social studies on preparation for the high school course of study)
- develop critical thinking skills associated with the social studies content
- learn background knowledge about the world as it relates to developing good citizenship by both study and engagement in inquiry and application of learning to civic projects

Of note, the CT State Standards and the CT Social Studies Frameworks did not exist when the decision was made to share the time dedicated to teaching Social Studies with World Language instruction. With the advent of these standards, the responsibility to revise our curriculum and instruction in alignment with state guidance, and our commitment to providing Brookfield students with a world-class education, the team discussed possible ways to balance the scheduling of instructional time and provide students with a rich and robust comprehensive program of studies. It was noted that an area that shows a need for improvement on our middle school students' SBAC scores over the past two years is in the area of informational reading and responding. The relationship of time spent in informational text, such as the documents associated with the social studies, as well as the thinking, writing, and classroom discourse and classroom interactions that are at the heart of social studies instruction has impact on student skill development as assessed on SBAC, This will be further explored.

2. Health and P.E. Curriculum Update: Stephen Baldwin

Steve Baldwin presented an update on work being undertaken to revise the Health and PE curriculum. He noted the need to increase the health instruction provided at the high school and described a few options to be considered. These included replacing some PE time with Health classes. BHS students get more PE time than required by legislation, so this is a viable option. Steve and Marc Balanda will continue to review and update CAPE. Steve gave information on new legislation regarding content requirements and stated that BHS is in compliance.

3. Update on BHS World Language Lab

Mr. Balanda informed the group of the work that he and his team have engaged in to identify a provider source for completing the World Language Laboratory. The team has had two companies present and a third is coming in late October. Once the final presentation is made, the team will make a recommendation.

5. Presentation on BHS School Improvement Grant

Maureen Ruby outlined the current status of the School Improvement Grant at BHS. Our state consultant visited with Ruby and Balanda at BHS. The grant monies should be available by October 31. At that time, the grant activities will ensue.

6. Professional Development Update - 11/7 and 11/8

All schools have been working and collaborating with the Assistant Superintendent's Office to establish the programs for professional learning on November 7 and 8. The brochure for the offerings will be available for BOE members and staff by October 28. BOE members are welcome to attend.

Adjournment: 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ruby