

Winchester Board Education

Type of Meeting: Curriculum Committee Meeting **MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

Location: Town Hall – ~~Blue Room~~ - Moved to Hicks Room

Facilitator: N. Mocarski

Committee Members: Jeannette Brodeur, Renata Waldron, Nora Mocarski, and Sondra Strubhar

Invitees: Doug Pfenninger, Richard Dutton, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Kristin Peterson, and Melony Brady-Shanley

Quorum: 4

I. Call to Order 6:31 pm

II. Roll Call

Quorum (Needed 4): Jeannette Brodeur, Renata Waldron, Nora Mocarski, and Sondra Strubhar

Also in attendance: Doug Pfenninger, Richard Dutton, Kristin Peterson, and Melony Brady-Shanley

Absent: S. Lovetere (excused) and C. McGlynn (excused)

III. Agenda Review

a) Review of Curriculum Committee Agenda – December 14, 2021  
None.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes of Curriculum Committee Minutes – October 26, 2021  
**MOTION:** First: K. Peterson, Second: R. Waldron → U

V. New Business

a) Chair Appointment

N. Mocarski was nominated and approved to chair the Curriculum Committee.

b) Discussion of Focus Areas

Discussion over possible topics for the Curriculum Committee included student performance reports on standardized assessments. A description of the various standardized assessments took place and other topics for future curriculum committee meetings. See bullets below. Since this discussion was full of educational topics, a “calendar” shall be created to identify monthly committee topics. This shall be created by Nora and shared with Melony for edits, and then finally shared with the Curriculum Committee members.

General notes and topics included:

- Reporting out three times a year on standardized assessments. Assessments include:

- **NWEA** - Stands for “North[W]est Evaluation Assessment.” It tests Math and Reading percentiles. It measures growth over time from Sept to May so that students maintain grade level. The goal is to meet growth targets three times a year. These are untimed assessments but shut down when a student reaches 50% right/wrong. Once met at 50%, the test is over (usually between 30 min to 90 min). It is kid-dependent, so it varies. Testing takes time over two days at one hour each day. Math on one day, Reading another
  - Teachers do not know what the test includes. So no test-prep.
  - NWEA - Benchmark - Fall, Winter, Spring
- **SBAC** - Multiple phases. This is administered in the month of May. It is a State assessment. Special Ed. students also take this, and approximately 98% of Spec. Ed students take the regular state assessment with accommodations. Note that 2% of Spec. Ed students are provided a “checklist” or an alternative assessment. One or two tests are administered a week. It assesses math knowledge, and there is a math performance task that requires that students apply and use critical thinking skills. There is a multi-step process here. It also assesses reading comprehension. Students read a text and engage in a performance-based assessment. These assessments are different from 5-10 yrs ago. They are not CMT-like.
  - For example, the student will read a text associated with a prompt and finish the author’s thinking. Take the author’s perspective when responding to a piece of text.
  - **State assessments - SBAC accountability measures for the state.**
- **Formative Assessments:** Teachers also use formative assessments - every day that informs instruction
- **District assessments:** There are also end of unit math/reading exams/tests as well as “**Running Records**” (every 30 days reading assessments are done to adjust text levels based upon these results); and **IABs (Interim Assessment Block)** - developed by the SDE which are aligned with SBAC. Content based and skills specific. Can be as few as five to six questions or the more traditional IAB (with more questions). We use these and align to the unit being taught. Used as Pre and Post assessment.
- All of this test data feeds data teams.
  - Ensures equity from classroom to classroom, regardless of teacher. Fidelity.
- Other possible topics include
  - Possible presentation of example unit assessments
  - Can we get access to the performance scores of the 7th graders while @ Gilbert?  
Answer: There is “EdSite” where some information is public.
  - A tour of the curriculum is online: Instructional coaches to present a unit and how a teacher would walk through a unit with a student.
  - Khan Academy Grade 3 - Report out on whether this product is worthwhile for our 3rd graders. Working with CCSS. Uses NWEA assessment scores already. Self-paced program specific for that child.
- **TAG** - We have a TAG program. On the Winchester Public Schools website. This is year four. Housed at Pearson. Starts at grade 4. Through grade 6. At first, it was a cohort of just 5% of highest students, but now revised to have more students participating. TAG in Math then TAG for Reading, then Writing, Arts, then PE, Music. And STEAM TAG too.

- Kid Governor - Fall only. Starts early Sept.
- National Spelling Bee - our first year now that our curriculum is solid.
- PD - Has been typically in-person this year. March is the master calendar building. March and April is used to plan PD for the following upcoming school year.
- This year PD is focused on Data.
  - Early PD was in-classroom instruction.
  - Through growth 1) certified staff needs; 2) Spec Ed and service providers, 3) non-certified staff members (paras, teaching assistance...)
  - This year - SEL. DESSA training: relationship building. Teaches teachers how to develop quality relationships.
  - This year - data driven and how to analyze it. How this data impacts instruction on a stay to day basis.
  - One of 15 districts for pilot for new IEP and PPT process starting for next year. This year we've had very personal training. So Winchester will be running next year for new PPTs and IEP docs.
  - Non-certif (para, interventionists, K assistants) - working a PD series : how to run effective small groups in the classroom. Focus area in each month.
- Currently, Gilbert is not working with Winchester PD.
  - Alignment of Winchester and Gilbert
  - Budget process - while started in October, supports the PD plan crafted in March/April because the reality is that PD is planned in Dec/Jan or earlier so the budget is not a problem for the development of the PD plan.

## VI. Adjournment

**MOTION** to adjourn @ 7:16pm

First: K. Peterson, Second: J. Brodeur → U.

Submitted by N. Mocarski, BOE Secretary.