

**PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, March 13, 2023: 5:30 PM

Meeting Topics:

- 1. Elementary updates on writing instruction**
- 2. Winter Academic Assessments**
 - Continued data analysis
 - Targeted instructional planning
- 3. Update regarding possibility of additional Middle School courses for high school credit**
 - UA coursework
 - UA teacher meeting
 - Future admin meeting
- 4. Initial planning for MSP parent/student/teacher education regarding high school attendance and credit acquisition**

Place and Time: Plainville High School Learning Commons
47 Robert Holcomb Way
Plainville, CT 06062

Members Present: Becky Martinez, Rachel Buchanan, Becky Tyrrell, Lori Consalvo, Ex Officio

Also Present: Steven K. LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent
Tawana Graham-Douglas, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Wendy Bender, Instructional Resource Teacher
Crystal St. Lawrence, Cassandra Clark, Foster White

Early Departures: None

Chairperson Becky Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. At the previous meeting, there were questions from the Committee regarding handwriting and spelling. Tawana Graham-Douglas asked one of the districts Instructional Resource Teachers, Wendy Bender to give an update on handwriting instruction and spelling at the elementary level. Ms. Bender informed the Committee that handwriting is started in grades kindergarten and grade 1 that is where instruction really starts. In grade 1 there are center rotations. The OT (Occupational Therapist) puts together a handbook for them to use and they support the handwriting programs. She gave samples to the members for them to review. In grades 3-5, Chromebooks are more prevalent for use in writing. She explained that because of the pandemic, the OT noticed changes in students handwriting and are now working closely with teachers to support students. There will be Professional Development in the fall that will focus on instruction. Ms. Bender explained that spelling is taught through the Foundations Curriculum using spelling patterns

and writing complete sentences with punctuation and capitalizations. They also do drills with different sounds. Discussion continued.

Mr. Levenduski gave an update on the winter academic assessments. They are continuing to look at data in each of the Schools. The administrative staff meets at each building to review and discuss data. They have been discussing data more now than they ever did before. Conversations take on a whole different level if you understand your data. The district doesn't want any student to fall through the cracks. There has been discussion with parents and staff regarding the possibility of adding Middle School courses for high school credit. The staff was concerned as to what the curriculum would look like next year so he met with the teachers to discuss some of the administration's possible ideas. When you look at a course offering that will give the student a high school credit and world language was one of these but that was it. Other schools offer different courses but they felt our students had enough UA offerings. The schools have the ability in our district to offer extra offerings. Something that a student may have a passion for. The thought is to open up credits and align courses for what students may be interested in. Areas of focus for the extra offerings could be technology education, culinary, engineering/construction, pathways, physical education or possibly art courses. The district will offer an accelerated Spanish Class to fill a spot vacated by a World Language teacher at the Middle School. Discussion continued.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Gryguc

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Recording Secretary