

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020 @ 4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

SUBJECT: BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING

- 1) Review of Proposed New District Mathematics Program Presentation
- 2) Discussion of Curriculum Shifts Related to Distance Learning
- 3) Other

PRESENT: Kathy Wells, Becky Martinez, Becky Tyrrell

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Steven LePage
Assistant Superintendent David Levenduski
Supervisor of Elementary Curriculum Tawana Graham-Douglas
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Rosa Perez
Principals: Lynn Logoyke and Andrew Batchelder
Board Members: Crystal St. Lawrence, Nicole Palmieri and Foster White
Mathematics Selection Committee: Alicia Atterato, Kristen Penner, Wendy Bender and Sue Stoker

ABSENT: None

The meeting convened at 4:06 PM.

1) Review of Proposed New District Mathematics Program:

Tawana Graham-Douglas, Supervisor of Elementary Curriculum, introduced members of the Mathematics Program Selection Team: Alicia Atterato, Kristen Penner, Wendy Bender and Sue Stoker

She stated that the committee will review the process by which a new program was selected and emphasized that the program must be aligned with Common Core and Connecticut State Standards.

Mrs. Graham-Douglas stated that information was collected via potential programs through: an EdReports website; colleagues in other districts; consultation with a State Department of Education Math Specialist; program presentations and site visits by the selection committee.

Ms. Atterato stated that site visits were conducted in Brookline, MA, Farmington, CT, and Winchester, CT. She stated that the Bridges Program being used in Winchester, had many moving concerns as parts of the program were not easy to use. The

committee was vary taken with Brookline's Illustrative Math program and Farmington's program came in a close second. Each of the programs were compared with the selection committee's criteria:

The program must have: rigorous math concepts, problem solving and must be inquiry based. Must have, Cooperative learning, rigorous assessments and professional learning opportunity differentiation.

Kristen Penner reviewed the assessment process:

- Pilot teams were created in each building at all three elementary schools (at various levels)

- Team lessons were that at each building.

- Teachers reviewed students' work and outcomes.

- The committee gathered feedback from teachers, administrators and students.

Tawana Graham-Douglas emphasized that the key elements the committee members were searching for were rigor, alignment and professional learning. The Illustrative Math program is a rigorous, program based, real world problem solving Program which suits the needs of our district.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated she was impressed with the diligence by which the team worked to choose this new program.

Ms. Atterato stated that she was able to contact each team to discuss the program at various grade levels. However, due to the closing of school, not all grade level items were able to be finalized but will be addressed.

Mrs. Graham-Douglas thanked the committee for all of the work they have done. Mr. LePage also thanked the committee, Mrs. Graham-Douglas and each of the Principals for all they have done to bring the new program to fruition. He stated that Title funds will be used to pre-purchase software.

2)Discussion of Curriculum Shifts Related to Distance Learning

Mrs. Tyrrell asked that a follow-up be done on "a day in the life of each student Pre-K-12" so that the Board can better understand of what Distance Learning looks like.

Mr. LePage stated that he will send an overview of the process to board members via email prior to Monday evening's BOE meeting and will also speak about it further at the meeting.

3)Other

Mr. LePage stated that there may be a modified start to school in September. All is contingent upon the progression of the virus. Planning meetings for a September school start has begun with the Commissioner and Governor. Summer school will take place on a modified basis for those students most in need. Mr. LePage stated that the district will do whatever executive decisions allow, as safety must be maintained. He also commented that if the number of students being bused declines due to a new mandated schedule, this will also impact the Dattco contract.

Mr. LePage also stated that teachers are planning for an aggressive review of missed materials when students return. More information will follow.

Both Mr. Levenduski and Mrs. Logoyke shared concerns about students falling behind. Mrs. Logoyke stated that all students are experiencing different situations. Some students are needy and don't have much help, some are doing very well and others have checked out due to their new environment. She stated that other students are moved around on a daily basis, to family or friends, due to the fact that daycares are closed and parents are working.

Mr. Levenduski agreed and stated that most of the town is in good shape and the district is doing all that it can to follow up with help and solutions. However, parents also need to reach out. If the district doesn't know there is a problem, the problem can't be fixed. He also stated that now that parents know that school is closed until the fall, new fears and concerns will abound.

Mr. LePage stated that he will discuss a day in the life of each student at each grade level, Special Education needs, Opening of School transitions, and graduation planning, at Monday evening's Board regular business meeting. He will also discuss grading at each level and the proposed hiring of an SRO at the Middle School. Information on a few of these items will be sent to the Board prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held in a Zoom format beginning at 7 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Calistro

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