

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022: 5:00 PM

Special Meeting Topics:

Special Meeting Agenda

- **MSP- Status of new math curriculum and programming**
- **MSP – Update of the ELA curriculum shifts: TCRWP**
- **EL Programming – Explanation of new instructional resource**
- **Elementary Literacy – “Reinvigoration” work for elementary literacy**
- **Elementary Math – Update on the new Illustrative Math Curriculum**
- **College and Career Pathways update and PHS Mastery based learning credit opportunities**

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

Members Present: Becky Martinez, Laurie Peterson, Crystal St. Lawrence, Becky Tyrrell, Lori Consalvo, Foster White and Cassandra Clark

Members Absent: Deborah Hardy and Rachel Buchanan

Also Present: Steven K. LePage, Superintendent of Schools
David Levenduski, Assistant Superintendent
Ryan Cornelius, MSP, Assistant Principal
Tawana Graham-Douglas, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Lily Cornielle-Cordero, ELL, Equity and Student Support Specialist

Early Departures: None

Assistant Superintendent David Levenduski called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. He turned the meeting over to Ryan Cornelius for an update and discussion of the ELA and Math program at the Middle School along with a discussion regarding the Grading Policy. He stated that the reading units of study is being fully implemented in grades 6-8 and class novels with ‘one size fits all’ instruction has been shifted to a structured literacy model with a guaranteed, viable curriculum, workshop modeled classrooms, book clubs/small groups, choice reading and interactive read aloud with complex texts. Teachers College Staff Developer, Heather Burns is partnering with the MSP this year for 8 personalized sessions inclusive of modeling in “lab site classrooms,” professional development grounded in current literacy research and best practices. Teachers will be participating in professional development from Teachers College on vocabulary instruction and teaching comprehension strategies to tackle complex texts.

Mr. Cornelius then gave an update on the Math program at the Middle School. He stated that Desmos is being fully implemented across all grade levels and early feedback from teachers and students has been very positive.

Students love the interactive nature of the program, and the exploration portion of the curriculum. Teachers think Desmos is a great tool for students. It provides visual instruction that is not possible with traditional paper resource and students are engaged in their work. The Company itself has been extremely responsive to teacher feedback. There are notes available for each lesson and the interactive nature of the program helps teachers find new ways to explore and explain difficult concepts. He then spoke in regards to the Grading Policy at the MSP. He stated that there are 3 components of Grading at the Middle School:

- Habits of Scholarship
- Standards Based Grading
- Traditional Letter Grade

Habits of Scholarship

- Respectful Behavior
- A Growth Mindset
- Independent Responsibility
- Classroom Responsibility

These are the traits we believe every student should demonstrate, and are characteristics that every successful student should demonstrate.

Standards Based Grading

- 4 – Exceeding Grade Level Expectations
- 3 – Meeting Grade Level Expectations
- 2 – Approaching Grade Level Expectations
- 1 – Attempting to Meet Grade Level Expectations

This band of our policy is intended to keep parents informed of their student's ability relative to the Connecticut Core Standards.

Traditional Letter Grades

- This is new to MSP this year.
- We felt this a necessary change to ensure our students have the skill set needed to earn the grades they want at PHS as they compete for sports in colleges and scholarship opportunities.
- This has been well received by parents, students and teachers.
- Created new urgency for many students to do their work at the highest level they are capable of.

Tawana Graham-Douglas gave an update on the Math and Science Curriculum at the Elementary Schools.

K-5 Illustrative Math:

- Experts in implementing all components of problem-solving based lessons including warm up, activities and closure.
- Deepening effective instruction during activity and lesson syntheses with support of the math team through modeling, coteaching and reflection/goal setting meetings.
- Strategically grouping students to differentiate by need.
- Using formative data (cool downs and checkpoints) in combination with summative data (end of unit data collection) to analyze student progress toward mastery of standards.
- Communicating unit focuses and student performance with families.
- Collaborating during building-based level teams and in district-wide PLCs to deepen content knowledge and instructional practices.

- Teachers, Principals, Math Resource Teachers and Instructional Leaders are working as a team to focus on improving student mastery of grade level common core standards through the implementation of Illustrative Mathematics.

K-5 Science Updates

Mystery Science & Defined Learning

- Mastery Science
 - Grade levels are implementing four to five Mystery Science units that connect directly to the Next Generation Science Standards.
 - Students are engaging in hands-on activities related to scientific phenomena occurring in the real world within each unit.
- Defined Learning
 - Grade levels are implementing two project-based learning opportunities in conjunction with their Mystery Science units.
 - Portrait of the Graduate – College & Career Readiness connection: Students are exposed to, explore, and research career opportunities that relate to the field of science in grades K-5.

Lily Cornielle-Cordero gave an update on how PCS is Supporting our Multilingual Learners.

- Every Student Succeeds Act – Assessment
 - Each state is required to have in place a set of high-quality student academic assessments in Math, reading or language arts and science
 - States will break out the test data for whole schools, plus different “subgroups” of students (English learner, students in special education, racial minorities, those in poverty).
 - ESSA maintains the federal requirements for 95% participation in tests.
 - States need to incorporate at least four indicators into their accountability systems.
 - States must include three academic indicators: Academic proficiency on state assessments, English language proficiency, and growth or another statewide academic indicator for K-8 schools.
- LAS Links:
 - Measures student’s language ability in the following 4 domains: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening – Districts must provide support, instruction and assessments to ensure access to core instruction.
- Plainville’s Demographics
 - District make-up and growth in the past 4 years.
 - In 2018, Plainville Community Schools had 18 languages spoken in our schools. In 2022, there are 29 languages. In 2018, there were 66 students that spoke Spanish and 42 students that were Polish speaking. In 2022, Spanish speaking students has risen to 186 and Polish to 129. We have 171 EL’s in Plainville Schools which is 7.5 percent of our student population.
- OFF2Class – Curriculum & Assessment
 - Aligned to Standards
 - OFF2Class lessons aligned with WIDA Standards (41 states use WIDA).
 - LAS LINKS ALIGNMENT to WIDA Standards 2018 (4 states use Las Links).
 - OFF2Class offers Access to:
 - Placement test – provides baseline and skills targeted for increase.
 - Curriculum links to lessons identified as skills necessary to develop.
 - Each lesson has an assessment to ensure skill mastery.
 - Lessons provide instruction in all 4 domains (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening).

- Curriculum, Practice & Assessment:
 - Each lesson provides a teacher manual.
 - Lessons can be presented and assigned to students.
 - Opportunity to practice skills in all 4 domains – Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening.
 - Projects are built into the lesson.
 - Provides teachers with the opportunity to build in enrichment activities.
 - Every unit has built in assessments for each lesson.
 - Give additional information to triangulate data with current assessments.
- Next steps for PCS MLL Program
 - Track student data/progress (baseline)
 - LAS Links Results
 - OFF2Class Student Results
 - Review Correlation of Assessments
- Collaborate with content teachers to ensure access to the general education curriculum.
- Provide Professional Development to district personnel on best practices instructional strategies and student support.
- Provide Professional Development opportunities to ESL teachers to stay informed and continue to build the district's capacity.

The College and Career Pathways Update by David Levenduski was postponed until the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Gryguc

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Recorder of Minutes