



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 23, 2013**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Assistant Principal's Office

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE: Dr. Linda Tsoumas, Chair (present); Dr. Michael Knapp, Member (present)

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (present)

VISITORS: Mr. David Monroe, BHS Science Teacher (present)

MINUTES

I. Call Subcommittee meeting to order

Dr. Tsoumas called the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda

None

III. Subcommittee meeting minutes for approval

A. June 11, 2013

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to recommend that the content of the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting be put forth to Mr. Fritsch, as having been present at that meeting, for affirmation that the minutes, as presented, are a correct representation of the meeting, and to sign the minutes if so affirmed. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

IV. Reports and recommendations of the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

A. Textbook request for BHS Science Department

1. Field Geology

Mr. Monroe prefaced his discussion of the textbook request for Field Geology by commenting on the new AP Biology text which will have its second reading and vote for approval at the full School Committee meeting later this evening. He stated that the materials will include a hardcover textbook, study guide, disk and e-book, at an estimated unit price of \$159.47, which includes a six year e-Text access period.

Mr. Monroe then presented the request of Mr. Stevens Koziol, BHS Science Teacher, for a textbook to be used in a new course in Field Geology which is being offered this fall. The 176 page text, entitled *Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley*, a 3rd edition published in 2003, is specialized and will

provide students with local highlights of geology. Mr. Monroe stated that while some text is slightly out-of-date, there will be supplemental resources that instructors will access which will keep information updated (i.e., *Guidebook for Field Trips in the Connecticut Valley Region of Massachusetts and Adjacent States*). He feels that this is a perfect textbook for this semester and will be beneficial to all students taking this course. Mr. Monroe also noted that this soft cover textbook will cost \$30.00 per book.

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to recommend that the official first reading of this request for the purchase of Field Geology textbooks be brought to the full School Committee for its review. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

B. Physical Education Curriculum

Mr. Cameron presented the completed Physical Education Curriculum Guide for review by the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee. He stated that, as with all other previously approved guidelines, a committee was formed for this discipline and it went through the process of unwrapping the state standards, and simplifying them into teacher-friendly terms. This document was also created in the same format as previously approved guidelines, with each content area providing an essential question and content-specific standards and outcomes. Mr. Cameron noted that the committee followed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework and in doing so, some standards are not included since the BPS district does not teach Health. A rough draft was then reviewed by the Instructional Leadership Team and it was decided that Dr. Houle would do the final review prior to submission to this subcommittee, and her subsequent recommendation for its approval by the full School Committee later this evening. If approved by the School Committee, this guideline will be posted on the BPS website and will also be made available in multiple formats.

Dr. Tsoumas asked how many Physical Education teachers are dual certified in Health, and Mr. Cameron stated that there were very few in our district. She recommended that these teachers pursue that dual certification and noted that the Health certification exam will be offered in the fall.

Dr. Knapp commented on the breadth of information covered by PE teachers (i.e., reproductive health) and Mr. Cameron stated that some topics are not taught in great depth, but rather presented as a brief overview, and may be covered in science classes. Since this document represents the district's first PE curriculum guideline, offering a continuum of instruction for PreK-12, Dr. Knapp inquired as to how this curriculum will be assessed in the future. Mr. Cameron stated that there will be performance-based assessments (such as The President's Challenge), and that there are portions of Physical Education that use written exams and projects as assessments.

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to recommend that the Physical Education Curriculum Guide, as presented, be brought to the full School Committee for its approval. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

V. Subcommittee correspondence

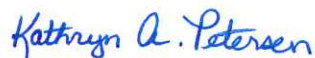
- A. Agenda: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting – July 23, 2013
- B. Minutes: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting – June 11, 2013
- C. Curriculum document and Curriculum design form
 - 1. Physical Education Curriculum
 - 2. Curriculum Design Guide with feedback
- D. Instructional Resource Form
 - 1. Field Geology – with supporting materials

VI. Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting at 6:57 p.m. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by,



Kathryn A. Petersen
Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee members' signatures:


_____, Linda Tsoumas, Chair


_____, Michael Knapp, Member

The mission of the Belchertown Public Schools is to ensure that every student meets with success every day. To that end, we pledge to ensure that we have rigorous, standards-based curriculum; instruction designed to meet the needs of diverse learners in every classroom; and access to the global learning community via state-of-the-art technology in schools that are communities of respect and civility for all.

2011-2015 Strategic Plan Goals (adopted by the Belchertown School Committee, 3/1/11):

- Goal #1: To have guaranteed (standards-based and implemented by all), viable (doable and accessible to every student), seamless K-12 curriculum in every content area.
- Goal #2: To have rigorous (standards-based), relevant (grounded in 21st Century skills), differentiated instructional practices with the ability to access the global learning community via technology available to every learner.
- Goal #3: To implement a plan to ensure that our students understand the importance of acceptance, tolerance, and respect supported by all adults in the community.

The Belchertown Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee of the School Committee conducts its business in open session pursuant to Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The public is welcome to comment only on items on the agenda for this meeting as noted above. If you wish to address the Subcommittee regarding an item not on the agenda for this meeting, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 413.323.0423 or via email at superintendent@belchertown.org to determine the best way to address your concerns.