



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 13, 2014**

LOCATION: Swift River Elementary School Library

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Judith Houle, Superintendent of Schools (present); Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (present); Dr. Robert Gazda, incoming Interim Superintendent (present); Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal (present)

VISITORS: Mr. Kyle Landrio, BHS Math Department Chair; Ms. Debra Pratt, JBMS Math Teacher; Mr. Richard Fritsch, School Committee Secretary; Ms. Christina Aponte; Ms. Laurie Shea

MINUTES

- I. Call Subcommittee meeting to order
Dr. Tsoumas called the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda
None
- III. Subcommittee meeting minutes for approval
 - A. March 25, 2014
MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting, as presented. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.
VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously
- IV. Reports and recommendations of the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
 - A. Honors Math Curriculum: grades 8 and 9
Mr. Cameron introduced Mr. Landrio and Ms. Pratt to discuss the creation of the Honors Math Curriculum in grades 8 and 9, noting that these teachers played an integral part in its development, and acknowledging their hard work in this endeavor. Mr. Landrio and Ms. Pratt reviewed the draft curriculum guidelines which were included in this evening's correspondence, and answered questions by the Subcommittee members with regard to content, sequencing of math courses from grades 8 through 12, where geometry will fit into this sequence, and how the STEM program will be integrated into this curriculum. Dr. Tsoumas also asked for clarification about the geometry content in relation to the students'

preparedness for taking ACTs and SATs, and Mr. Landrio stated that students will be ready for such testing by the end of 10th grade. Dr. Knapp asked Ms. Pratt how many students will be taking Honors Math 8, and expressed his hope that more seats will be made available to qualifying students at this level.

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to recommend bringing forward the Honors Math Curriculum: grades 8 and 9, as presented, for approval by the School Committee. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

B. Instructional Resource request: Math 9

Mr. Landrio presented a proposal to purchase a new math textbook which will encompass all course levels of Math 9. He discussed his reasons for the selection of this instructional resource, *Algebra I* (and *Algebra I Student Companion*), citing its alignment with Common Core, components for differentiated instruction, technology integration into instruction, etc. Mr. Landrio also stated this text will be supplemented with geometry resources which he already has in place. This proposed text was piloted for four weeks, and has been reviewed and recommended by both levels of Instructional Leadership Teams.

Dr. Tsoumas explained that any proposal for a new textbook must have two readings by the School Committee before a vote for approval can be rendered.

MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to recommend bringing forward the Instructional Resource request for Math 9 (textbook entitled *Algebra I*), as presented, as a first reading for approval by the School Committee. Dr. Tsoumas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 2-0-0, approved unanimously

V. Unfinished business
None

VI. New business
None

VII. Subcommittee correspondence
A. Agenda: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, May 13, 2014
B. Minutes: Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting, March 25, 2014
C. Honors Math Curriculum: grades 8 and 9
D. Instructional Resource request form: Math 9

VIII. Adjourn
MOTION: Dr. Knapp moved to adjourn the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting at 6:54 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.