



**BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
July 21, 2015**

**LOCATION:** Central Office, 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA  
**TIME:** 3:00 pm

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Dr. Michael Knapp, Chair (present); Dr. Thomas Laughner, Member (present)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Mrs. Karol Coffin, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Cameron, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services; Mr. Thomas Ruscio, JBMS Principal; Ms. Sandra Bremer, CSS Principal; Mr. Robert Kuhn, SRE Principal

**VISITORS:** Ms. Debra Pratt

**Minutes**

- I. Call to order  
Superintendent Coffin called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm.
  
- II. Public comment regarding items on the agenda  
There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.
  
- III. Approval of minutes
  - A. April 28, 2015  
 Motion: Dr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes as amended.  
 Second: Dr. Laughner  
 Vote: 2,0,0  
 Discussion: Amend minutes page 2 section VII B. second to last sentence to read **"The Subcommittee** would like to suggest the ....."
  
- IV. Items for discussion and action
  - A. Select Chair of Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee  
 Motion: Dr. Laughner nominated Dr. Knapp to the position of Chair.  
 Second: Dr. Knapp  
 Vote: 2,0,0
  
  - B. Six month projection for Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee agendas (in connection to Bridge Plan)  
 Dr. Knapp listed committee needs for agendas and measuring successful outcomes.
    - Fall assessments would be done for October, - meeting to be scheduled
    - Professional development needs of the district.
    - Winter course alignment – meeting to be scheduled
    - Spring and end of year outcomes

➤ Student engagement – school learning

Superintendent Coffin noted student outcomes are also based on student work not just end of year testing. She noted a district instructional team is to be formed. Updating the committee would be a couple times a year. Most of the schools will not have data available for the committee until December. CSS currently holds data meetings and the remaining school will be starting that process. Dr. Knapp noted that the committee be shown the data on improvement would be helpful.

Dr. Laughner questioned;

- the vision for curriculum in the school, are there over arching goals for all the schools?
- would like to see a broader view of assessment across the district
- additional course offerings at the high school

Dr. Knapp asked that the Superintendent supply the committee with information on what assessment are useful for a better understanding. Superintendent Coffin noted the district is now looking at what assessments are useful. There will be an initial data meeting with Ben Admussen and the new Director of Curriculum in October/November.

The committee would like more information from BHS on what Ms. Vigneux is looking to do with regard to new courses. Superintendent Coffin noted that information may be available in January.

C. Update on outcomes/data use in Math (Gr. 6-9)

Ms. Pratt spoke to a June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting among 8 teachers, three 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers, 4 JBMS math teachers and 1 BHS teacher. They worked on developing a 7<sup>th</sup> grade honors math program. She noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students would take 2 assessments similar to the current 7<sup>th</sup> grade system. This process could potentially make it easier for a student to enter the honors math program from different grade levels. Dr. Knapp questioned if the honors program is a compression program. Ms. Pratt noted at some point compression would occur. Ms. Pratt noted that she researched what was out there for honors programs and they developed an advanced curriculum accordingly. Dr. Knapp questioned whether the Orleans-Hanna test been a good predictor of success. Ms. Pratt noted that it has predicted pretty accurately. Dr. Laughner added a history of assessment data. Mr. Ruscio noted this year's assessments showed less student readiness and noted scores seemed to go down with curriculum changes. Dr. Knapp questioned if supports would get more students into honors math? Ms. Pratt and Mr. Ruscio noted that it would need more student initiative to enter the honors program. Ms. Pratt also noted that math is currently the only subject at the lower levels that offers a honors program.

D. Update on assessments currently used in CSS

Ms. Bremer spoke to the assessments for kindergarten. They are looking at all the current assessments to determine which are the most useful. Social emotional predictors for success in school, she noted that early intervention is key. Ms. Bremer spoke to the assessment currently being used;

- Kindergarten screening
- MKEA

- DIBELS
- DDM
- Fountas and Pinnell – Title 1
- Running Records
- End of unit tests

Dr. Laughner questioned what was Ben Admussen's role? Ms. Bremer noted that Mr. Admussen ran all the reports with the data amassed. The committee would like to see the data. Ms. Bremer and Mr. Kuhn noted it was very successful when the two schools shared a guidance counselor. The students knew her when they went to first grade and it made the transition much easier.

E. Update on the outcomes/data use at SRE

Mr. Kuhn spoke to the SRE update. He noted that previously there was not much data because there weren't that many assessments being done. SRE now uses DIBELS and Easy CBM (math assessment). DIBELS is done 3 times a year and Easy CBM is once. Mr. Kuhn explained the Easy CBM assessment. Mr. Kuhn noted he is looking for all teachers to be trained in DIBEL testing. Dr. Knapp requested input later in the year on how the assessment of data is working. Superintendent Coffin noted that SRE has put a lot of effort into data and assessment. Mr. Kuhn noted that having all student information in a central place is a need for the future. Dr. Knapp noted the need for data security being necessary.

VIII. Correspondence

- A. July 21, 2015 Agenda
- B. April 28, 2015 Minutes
- C. Honors Math 7 Curriculum
- D. Honors Math Criteria Pathway

XI. Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Laughner moved to adjourn at 5:00 pm.

Second: Dr. Knapp

Vote: 2,0,0

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramona Griffin

Non-Confidential Recording Secretary to the School Committee

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee members' signatures:

 \_\_\_\_\_, Michael Knapp, Chair

 \_\_\_\_\_, Thomas Laughner, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 School Committee conducts its business in open session pursuant to Chapter 30A, Section 21 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 School Committee 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](mailto:superintendent@belchertown.org) to determine the best way to address your concerns (see [School Committee Policy BEDH](#)).