

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
5/7/20

Called to order at 3:35 PM

Attendants: Jacob Marie, Christine Griffin, Ashley Lundgren, Walter Willett, Kate Howard-Bender

- Proposed Guidelines for Comportment / Agreements?
Committee Agreed that the Chair's Proposed Norms and Agreements are acceptable
Norms:
 - Start and End on time
 - Put cell phones on vibrate; only take crisis calls; leave the room to talk on the phone
 - Use iPads and laptops only for the work of the meeting;
 - Limit side conversationsFour Agreements
 - Be impeccable with your word
 - Don't take anything personally
 - Don't make assumptions - ask for clarification if needed
 - Always give your best effort to the work of the team

Personal Definition of curriculum

- Ms Plourd = what exactly is the teacher teaching my student / what will help them be successful to move on to the next level
- Ms Griffin = roadmap for the subject matter to make sure the student is prepared for the next level
- Ms Lundgren = what materials, how do you show them the way to learn; how do you teach them to use their own brain to come up; the way they teach, it all goes together as one; you want to have a successful student; whatever the components are to the curriculum are what's important
- Mr. Marie = what is taught and how you teach it

Committee Reviewed article Resource #1: Discussion Notes:

- Current state of curricular theory in public education represents a mixture of Social / Psychological / Learning Theory
 - Dr. Willett offered to provide a timeline of instructional Research from 1990's through 2000's through 2010's
 - Question from Chair: Are we interested in doing a historical walkthrough to understand where we are where we are with regard to curricular theory?
 - No, I'd prefer a conversation about present (Mr. Marie)
 - Rather have the background to read and educate myself (Ms Plourd) and what types of things we will changes we need to make (Ms Griffin agreed)
 - *Committee Ask: Walt to compile for the committee some pertinent resources to read; possible examples include:*
 - *Nation at Risk and Standardized-Testing Movement*
 - *Common Core Movement*
 - *Guskey, e.g. Making the Grade*
 - *Wormelli*
 - *O'Connor*
 - *Dweck*
 - Committee Common Desire: start exploring what Tolland's procedures and approaches to curriculum
 - Committee Discussed Common Understanding of [Curriculum](#)
 - **Written Curriculum** refers to the documents produced by the state, the school system, the school, and the classroom teacher, specifying what is to be taught... The written curriculum is the one usually meant by leaders who say, "We're going to develop a mathematics curriculum."

- **Taught Curriculum** – standards addressed, lessons shared, and activities facilitated by the individual teachers
 - **Learned Curriculum** – what the student learns (what they KNOW and are able to DO) by the end of the learning period (semester, year, etc)
 - We did not discuss [Resource #2](#) (lack of time)
 - Committee Reviewed the Mastery-Based Learning Principles (as promoted by the State of Connecticut and presented in the Tolland Mastery Learning Plan)
 - Ashley highlighted Principle 8. Students are given multiple opportunities to improve their work when they fail to meet expected standards.
 - Discussed how this practice is implemented at the middle school level
 - Discussed role of Homework, and homework's role as either a Compliance activity or Academic Practice (student would get feedback on this)
 - Discussed Purpose of Reassessment – increase level of knowledge, higher standard of performance, increased student self-confidence
 - Discussed Mastery-Based Learning as Attempt to get students to the highest level of understanding of a standard that is possible
 - Discussed the purpose of phasing out of longer Unit Assessments (research has shown that this is not the best conditions for students to demonstrate mastery of content)
 - *Discussed the Gradual Roll-Up of Mastery Based Learning – Started at the High School Spring of 2018*
- For Next Meeting:
 - Committee agrees to:
 - Read / be ready to discuss / come with questions about the Tolland Mastery Learning Plan (linked above)
 - Videos also available on website
 - Read and review the Tolland Math Standards

Meeting ended at 4:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Howard-Bender