

Curriculum Committee Minutes  
Tolland, Connecticut Board of Education  
Thursday, July 2, 2020  
3:30 PM

Meeting conducted via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Walt Willett, Christina Plourd, Christine Griffin, Kate Howard-Bender

Also Attending: n/a

Visitors: n/a

<p>Norms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Start and End on time</li><li>● Put cell phones on vibrate; only take crisis calls; leave the room to talk on the phone</li><li>● Use iPads and laptops only for the work of the meeting;</li><li>● Limit side conversations</li></ul>	<p>Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Be impeccable with your word</li><li>● Don't take anything personally</li><li>● Don't make assumptions - ask for clarification if needed</li><li>● Always give your best effort to the work of the team</li></ul>
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1. Review Norms & Agreements
2. Review of Previous Meeting
  - Committee [Timeline](#)
    - Update on inviting Curriculum Supervisors
      - (may need some flexibility with who comes when)
    - Preparation for this meeting:
      - SRBI / Tiered Instruction Resources from the Curriculum Committee Resources [List](#)
3. Discussion of SRBI / RTI
  - **What is SRBI / Rtl in Tolland?**
    - *Are there holes in SRBI / Rtl in this area? (Plourd)*
    - Currently there are a number of building resources for SRBI / Rtl
    - District is short-staffed in this area, thinking about impact of pandemic
    - CT and other states put SRBI into place to better serve students in general education population in order to avoid identification as in need of special education services / Least Restrictive Environment orientation (address students' deficits before they become more pronounced)
    - Pandemic's impact on the SRBI / Rtl
      - (previously - working on including co-teaching processes, push-in models for Tier 1)
      - Kids who were having a bit of trouble before - will see more students who need SRBI / Rtl assistance
      - *Ms Griffin stated she didn't realize that we would be losing a 6th grade ELA teacher.*

- Discussed the number of teachers in 5<sup>th</sup> grade was reduced., In addition seniority dictates which teacher within a certification area gets “bumped” – the certification area is K-6.
  - Positions were lost in final Town Council-BOE Budget meeting (Reduction in Force - destabilized the 6th grade team (ELA) (DOMINO effect of cuts within a system and a contractual agreement) / had to offset the class sizes in grades 3-5 anyway
  - Certification in Connecticut
    - K-6 (general education / can teach any subject to those grades)
    - 7-12 (subject area, and can move down to 6th grade)
  - *Question: are the rising 6th graders in need of the double block of ELA? (Griffin)*
    - Previous iteration was for 4 ELA Teachers in Reading/Writing
    - Current Iteration is 6th grade Rtl position (ELA)
    - Curriculum will be consistent with 7th and 8th grade model of ELA
    - Middle School model of teaching / reassign staff to balance the model and stabilize class numbers
  - **Staffing across district question w/bumping concerns (Dr. Willett will prepare an update)**
- SRBI/ Rtl is one of 3 district-wide School Improvement Plan (SIP) Goals (each administrator has to articulate a goal related to SRBI/Rtl; DISTRICT GOALS (School Improvement Plan):
  - Academic
  - **SRBI / Rtl**
  - Culture & Climate
- *How do we determine need for returning students? (HB)*
  - Universal Screens to determine performance levels / need levels - NWEA (language and math), Dibels (early reading), Daze, BAS (reading), Spire (reading & phonics)
  - Post-Screen, district reaches out to parents to provide Level 2 and/or Level 3 services for kids who need it
  - Occurs before the year (previous year) begins
  - First assessment is usually given in September or October
  - Potential: State of Connecticut seems to be moving away from SBAC and one-a-year assessments, and TOWARD IAB's (and maybe digital)
    - IAB = Interim Assessment Blocks
- We need to make sure that our capacity increases to meet the students' needs (which are leveled based on the greatest need)
  - Staff availability
  - Resources availability
- 25% of IEP's need to be completed (including testing)
- *What is the impact of the pandemic and loss of skills with regard to SRBI / Rtl at the High School? (Griffin)*
  - Adjust curriculum to address skill gaps

- [State's Plan Post-Pandemic](#) - p. 29-30 addresses the "first unit" considerations
- Mastery Learning -
  - Reports out what a student has or has not yet mastered (specific to the student)
- Tolland schools have data regarding how individual students did at home during the pandemic, and will share that information with teachers for 2020-2021 SY / have to address the curricular and skills gaps within the confines of the 180 days and within the confines of the municipal budget
- **How can we support the work of SRBI / Rtl Tolland (as a curriculum committee)?**
  - Transitioning more staff into the RTI roles (while continuing to manage class sizes)
  - *POSSIBLE AREA OF ADVOCACY FOR THE BOE: TALK TO THE STATE LEGISLATORS ABOUT REVISING TESTING REQUIREMENTS!!*
- 4. Update for Curricular Implications due to CoVID
  - Three possibilities, plan due to state by 7/24/20
    - All in school
    - Partially at school, partially online
    - Fully online
  - Curriculum Work Update
    - Need to adapt curriculum / make curriculum adjustments based on what happened at the end of the year
    - Need to adjust math curriculum to / adapt Singapore Math (alignment) in the next fiscal year
    - Usually completed by teachers outside of contractual hours
    - Were well-adapted to jump into the work because of existing procedures to revise curriculum
    - Problem that we face is that we could use some more staff / rev up some of the programs and curriculum
    - Reviewed the procedures for teachers requesting a change for curriculum
- 5. Preparation for next meeting (determined by consensus at the meeting)
  - [Resource List UbD Section](#)

Christina Plourd made motion to close; Chrstine Griffin seconded the motion; All voted aye; 4:58 PM