

Minutes of the Board of Education Curriculum, Assessment & Professional Practices Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, in Board of Education Conference Room E, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Attendance: Laura Montero, Linda Siladia, Irene Drake, Erin Brown, Robyn Gerety, Michele Walsh

Administrative Attendance: C. Carver, K. Brooks, M. Rutledge

J. Ackerman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Attendance:

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Present
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Present
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Present
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Present
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Present

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1. K-5 Reading Program Adoption- My View

Mrs. Rutledge, Director of Teaching & Learning presented the K-5 Reading Program, My View. In June 2021, The Right to Read Act-Legislation HB 6620 was passed. It requires districts to implement an evidence-based reading curriculum (July 2023). The District Literacy Team reviewed programs from the state-approved list using specific criteria including instructional design, evidence of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, alignment to the standards, and Multilingual Learner considerations. My View (Savvas) and Into Reading were selected and piloted with teachers from Berry, Rockwell and Johnson School. The team selected My View (Savvas) 2020 for the following reasons: Comprehensiveness/Rigor of curriculum and materials, Differentiated instruction-meeting the needs of all learners, Assessment and data-driven instruction, Connections to the global competencies and emotional intelligence, Correlation to our science program, and Strong teacher support. The committee reviewed materials and asked in-depth questions.

Motion to bring the K-5 reading program, My View, to the full Board for approval. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea
Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea
Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea
Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea
Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

2. EL Education Program Pilot

Dr. Brooks informed the committee in the upcoming school year, BMS will be piloting an ELA open educational resource, EL Education- Second Edition selected by a BMS ELA review team.

The program includes guiding questions and big ideas, content connections, technology and multimedia, independent research, and optional fieldwork/service and extensions; requires the use of the global competencies: critical thinking, collaboration, discovery, inquiry, and problem-solving; assesses learning through models, reflection, critique, rubrics, and conferencing; builds equity through a classroom culture that values ideas and learning of all.

3. Grade 8 Heritage Course Pilot

Dr. Brooks informed the committee in the upcoming school year, BMS will be piloting an 8th grade Spanish course designed to enhance the natural abilities of the heritage speaker, a student with a background knowledge of the Spanish language and strong speaking skills in Spanish. The general objectives of this course are to develop competence in students' reading and writing skills, to master certain grammar concepts particular to native/heritage speakers, to help them improve their presentational skills and take into account the experiences and influences of their bilingual and bicultural upbringing. This course will place an emphasis on having a pride in one's culture and sense of belonging in the community. It will also help students to connect with others with a similar cultural background and gain a deeper understanding of their family's language and traditions. Students who are ready can move to Spanish 3 at the high school. Many students will advance to honors Spanish from this course and will be on a track to take AP Spanish, as well as, become prepared to take the Seal of Biliteracy Test.

4. BMS OpenSciEd Program Pilot

Dr. Brooks informed the committee in the upcoming school year, BMS will be piloting a science open educational resource, OpenSciEd 2022. OpenSciEd is a comprehensive middle school science program that empowers students to ask questions, design investigations, and solutions, and make sense of the world. This is a high-quality instructional resource rated highly by EdReports because of its alignment to the NGSS, its coherence, and scope, along with its usability.

5. New Business

None.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:31 PM. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman and a second by Mrs. Courtney Martin.

Mrs. Jennifer Ackerman: Yea

Mrs. Jen Larsen: Yea

Mrs. Courtney Martin: Yea

Ms. Melanie O'Brien: Yea

Mrs. Cathy Schaefer: Yea

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pare
Board Recorder