

**STAFFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, January 29, 2017

TIME: 5:45 PM

PLACE: Stafford Elementary School Media Center

Members present: Sonya Shegogue, Andrea , George Melnick, Jennifer Murrhiy

Members absent: none

A. Curriculum Revision Process Update Director of curriculum shared with the team the recent processes to improve curriculum revision cycles in Stafford. Beginning in September, we started a process to improve access to high quality curriculum.

- a. First, we took a survey asking what was working well and what needed improvement. Teachers reported a need to align curriculum and improve access to find unit and course documents and usability of the template used for writing.
- b. Then, we worked with curriculum team leaders to examine other district templates and chose several components which we wanted to replicate. Content area teams gave feedback and we created several versions to bring to group. We explored curriculum management systems in order to improve access, and will recommend Atlas which has tools for developing, reporting, and professional development. George Melnik

asked for clarity about where the district would find the funds for this program. For the first two years, it would be grant-funded. Currently, we are analyzing usage data from existing district licenses and will recommend reallocating resources that are underutilized to cover the expense. We also discussed the capability of the system to populate a district curriculum website, allowing parents access to an overview of each course and unit.

- c. Director of Curriculum reviewed a sample scope and sequence map for a grade 6 English (Reading and Writing) course components of the team-developed template, and a sample unit. The unit, titled “Stafford Then and Now” showing an example of a unit written by Stafford teachers this summer. Board member Kathy Bachiochi asked about how the template could help with modification or accommodation for all students. We examined how the template allowed for clarity about the prerequisite skills they could focus on during academic support time, and academic vocabulary section which can help focus review.

## B. NGSS

- a. Discussed recent efforts to prepare for Next Generation Science Standards alignment, which include:
  - i. Training for elementary science teachers in March by Dr. Stacey Watson from EastCONN (grant funded through Title IV)
  - ii. Participation in the 5th grade Curriculum Unit Development consortium at CREC

- iii. Curriculum development with Dr. Stacey Watson through EastCONN for teachers in grades 6-12 during February early dismissal day and curriculum team time
  - b. Explained that the science curriculum team is examining the possibility of adopting units in grades K-4 build and designed by teachers in Connecticut through the NGSS Curriculum Unit Development Institute. This may save money for the district. Currently, the district participates in a science kit rental program from the East Bay Collaborative.
- C. Community partnerships- discussed with the board the intention to explore opportunities to connect students to the community and vice versa. George Melnick asked for an example, and Jennifer Murrehy shared that she wanted to communicate with the Stafford Historical Society to advise on the “Stafford Then and Now” elementary social studies unit. The office of curriculum and instruction would like to encourage other ideas as they come up.
- D. Q & A- No additional questions, Board Chair Sonya Shegogue stated that all questions were answered throughout the discussion and thanked Jennifer Murrehy for presenting the information about the recent developments.