

WBOE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Present: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Maegan Genovese, Nancy Maasbach (*via telephone*), Board Members; Bob Gilbert, Superintendent; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Monique MacDonald, Teacher; Veerle Bossuyt, community.

Ms. Piascyk called the meeting to order (4:37 PM).

Writers Workshop Presentation – Ms. Prisco, Ms. Sherman and Ms. MacDonald presented an overview of the Writers Workshop model utilized at BRS. Key points included:

- Review of research and philosophy with a focus on building readers, writers and mathematicians using a student-centered approach.
- Components of Workshop: Begins with a mini-lesson, then independent practice with teachers working with small groups of students or 1:1 and ends with a wrap up/share with the full group. Duration is approximately 45-60 minutes long.
- The process students are engaged in includes an assessment (for writing this is an on-demand writing piece), ongoing conferring with students and teaching within a unit of study that fits within the larger pacing guide.
- Required Resources: Writer's Notebooks/booklets, rubrics and checklists, mentor pieces, conference notes, charts and environmental supports such as a gathering spot for the mini lesson, books to support learning, accessible materials etc.
- Review of Curriculum Calendar: every grade level is required to teach *narrative*, *informational* and *opinion* writing. All grade levels are fairly balanced amongst the three types of writing. A narrative writing checklist has also been developed to provide feedback in a variety of ways.
- Sharing of student work samples.
- Columbia Teachers College produces a suggested pacing guide every year. This pacing guide is reviewed and modified based on student needs.

Questions raised include:

- When do we need to do a curriculum revision? *The curriculum is reviewed every year.*
- Are there other mechanisms for involving younger students, who may have some anxiety in writing? *In the younger grades initially there is a focus with lessons taught around drawing and students work on adding details to pictures. The follow-up step might be labelling pictures.*
- Are students permitted to write only within one genre if they favor one over another? *It is situational and dependent upon student need as the overall goal is simply to encourage students to write.*

It was suggested that we compile a way to use all of the tools teachers have access to.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations:

The December 7th meeting will highlight enrichment opportunities / course offerings within the Extended Day program i.e., Chinese, legos/ robotics, digital technology etc. the challenges and benefits of these types of offerings as well as future opportunities. An update on the Community Lecture Series will also be provided.

The January 4th meeting will focus on Responsive Classroom. Future meeting topics include TAG (overview and identification process) and Social Studies.

Meeting Adjourned: (6:05 PM)