

# WBOE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## September 12, 2019

**Present:** Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Maegan Genovese, Dr. David Ross, Joyce Shavers, Dr. Michael Strambler, Dr. Jeffrey Townsend, Board Members; Bob Gilbert, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Monique MacDonald, Teacher.

Ms. Piascyk called the meeting to order (4:30 PM).

Public Comment – None

**Phonics Report:** Ms. MacDonald provided an overview on the use of phonics at BRS.

1. Phonics is the relationship between letters and sounds and is a necessity for reading and writing.
2. Sequence of phonics skills: Early phonics skills are taught in Kindergarten. More complex sounds (vowel teams) taught in first and again in second grade.
3. Teacher's College Phonics Units of Study are in K-2 and include four to five units of study, whole group and small group lessons, extension activities and assessments.
4. Daily lessons: only take about twenty minutes, follow the same format as readers and writers workshop, incorporate fun and engaging storylines, and emphasize transfer to reading and writing.
5. Last year was the first year of implementation. Teachers noticed that students were writing more, including more letters in their words and including more vowels in their words.
6. After phonics is mastered, instruction shifts to word study in Grades 3-6. Word study includes word parts and word meanings including parts of speech, prefixes, suffixes etc.

Questions were raised pertaining to:

1. *Will differentiation be provided for students who require additional challenge?*
2. *Where does comprehension instruction happen?*
3. *How much was differentiation emphasized in the roll out of the word study program?*
4. *What are the factors for determining the success of the program?*

The Committee reviewed the 2019/20 meeting options and to determine the 2019/2020 Meeting Topics and Schedule. It was agreed the Committee will meet on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month at 4:30 PM. Topics identified for inclusion in the meeting calendar include:

- October: Summer Curriculum update overview
- November: Overview of Special Education/TAG
- December: Math Differentiation
- Responsive Classroom
- Social Studies
- World Language -- specifically the goals of the program
- Technology
- Textbooks--- pros and cons- think about topic specific
- Music, PE, Art

Meeting Adjourned: 5:55 PM

The next meeting is Thursday, October 17 at 4:30 PM in the District Office Conference Room.