

New Bedford Public Schools
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
New Bedford, MA 02740
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

7PM

Present: Dr. Finnerty, Mr. Amaral, Mr. Livramento

Also in attendance: Dr. Pia Durkin, Dr. Jason DeFalco, Dr. Lisa Dion, Dr. Tammy Greene

Meeting commenced at 7PM

Dr. Finnerty called the meeting to order.

Dr. Finnerty called the meeting to order. Dr. Durkin introduced the agenda for the evening which included five different areas:

- Science program overview for grades 3 to 8
- The new standards-based report card for grades K-5
- 2017 Summer Programming
- Chapter 74 funding possibilities
- Geography and maps

Dr. DeFalco reviewed the work that had been done to date in preparation for the new science program. Dr. Dion and Dr. Greene discussed specifically the science curriculum development, gave a program overview and reviewed the professional development plan. Dr. Durkin explained how the program would be rolled out regarding the professional development needs of teachers, and how we were going to start addressing the needs of kindergarten through second graders as the program was only going to cover grades three through eight.

Dr. Finnerty asked if there was going to be any work with community partners to help support the implementation of the new science program.

Dr. Dion shared that we are in the process of realigning some of our work with the Whaling Museum, for instance, that was going to be working directly with the science and history standards in New Bedford.

Mr. Livramento, Mr. Amaral and Dr. Finnerty all expressed their concerns and desire to make sure that the kindergarten through second graders would have the opportunity to access the same level of work that the grades three through eight students would have access to. Dr. Durkin and Dr. DeFalco assured them that the construction of the kindergarten through grade 2 units was going to happen and that training would be put in place for teachers at that grade span.

The meeting then shifted to a review of the new standards-based report card. The process was shared by Dr. Dion with the subcommittee that included the work of creating a new report card side-by-side with teachers, teaching and learning specialist and building administrators. There was also an overview of how parents were able to attend a training and feedback session on the

new report cards. Dr. Dion shared that while some staff and parents did not like the idea of standards-based report cards they are not new to the district, and really helping those that were not in favor of the standards-base report card understand how they work made a big impact on helping educators and parents understand the reasoning behind their importance.

Dr. Finnerty and Mr. Livramento wanted to know if there would be a way for teachers to give feedback to students with special needs and English language learners that would be different from the feedback given to a general education student. Dr. DeFalco mentioned that teachers would have the opportunity to provide very specific feedback so that all families will have a good understanding of how their child/children are progressing with their learning.

The topic of summer programming was then discussed. Four main programs were reviewed. The first, sea lab, then the new Power Scholars Program, which would impact Hayden-McFadden and Parker, and the three middle schools, the 21st-century summer programming, and lastly, programming with community partners.

Mr. Amaral had previously asked about the possibility of pursuing Chapter 74 funding. Dr. Durkin shared Mr. O'Leary had been investigating this and we would be putting in an application during the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Amaral shared that he felt that was a good idea and to keep the committee posted.

Lastly, the issue of geography in our schools was brought up, specifically the maps our students have access to. Mr. Amaral wanted to ensure our students had access to the most update and current maps. While most classrooms do not have updated maps hanging in their classrooms it was discussed that when the social studies curriculum update happens this will certainly be reviewed and requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8PM by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason DeFalco, EdD.
Deputy Superintendent