

CURRICULUM SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

July 25, 2011

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:32 PM by Dr. Finnerty
- 2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
PRESENT: Dr. Finnerty (chair), Dr. Fletcher, Ms. Pollock
STAFF ATTENDING: Andrew O’Leary, Pam Pacheco, Beth Doherty, and Denise Gaudette
- 3. *Race to the Top* update

Andrew O’Leary provided each member with a *Summary of Race to the Top Projects available to LEAs.*

The areas that must be addressed include: Improving teacher and principal effectiveness, Ensuring effective teachers and leaders in every classroom, Using data to inform instruction, Increasing college and career readiness, Helping to develop and a statewide teaching and learning system and Turning around the lowest achieving schools.

Schools will be asked to conduct surveys for decision making and change to strengthen school climate and conditions. Ms. Pollock asked who would be surveyed and Mr. O’Leary indicated that it should be faculty, parents and students. There was a discussion regarding MASC and MASS consolidating efforts to provide professional development opportunities. Dr. Fletcher made a motion and Ms. Pollock seconded to refer the matter to the committee as a whole for further discussion.

Priority #3 addresses support and feedback for staff to use data to improve instruction. Ms Pollock indicated that she heard from several interviewees for the position of Asst. Supt. For Accountability that *Data Warehouse* was not very useful to educators. Another part of the RTTP update involves #4. Increase college and career readiness. Each 9th grade student will now be required and supported to develop a *Your Plan For College*. This plan will be a roadmap for the student’s progress through high school. Committee members asked clarifying questions and engaged in discussion regarding specific aspects of the initiative. Graduation coaches are an allowed expenditure of funds in this area. Ms. Pollock commented that information regarding the availability of financial aid should be an important activity for the coaches due to the large number of students who may be the first in their family to enter college.

4. *Level 4 School update*

Mr. O'Leary indicated that Cambridge Education is the consulting firm working with Parker School staff and has assigned Desi Nesmitt as the .5 Plan Manager to work with the NBPS.

Beth Doherty and Pam Pacheco expanded on the District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) that the state will develop at Bridgewater State University. The Center will be a source for professional development opportunities for our staff. Ms. Doherty stated that the math courses were outstanding but that most are held during the summer. She mentioned that the courses are not required of staff but that they are highly encouraged to participate. Dr. Finnerty mentioned that the district should make proper preparation of teachers with ESE-supported courses from DSAC mandatory and that it is a responsibility that cannot be shirked because of availability, perhaps by considering providing the courses via a computer-based model or using local cable TV to assist.

5. *Bullying Prevention Task Force Subcommittee on Curriculum*

Denise Gaudette provided committee members with the document, *Recommendations for a Comprehensive Approach to the Prevention of Bullying Behaviors*, which is a product of the NBPS Bullying Prevention Taskforce. The bullying prevention model chosen for recommendation to the superintendent is the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*. The model has been found effective in preventing and reducing bullying behaviors among schoolchildren at all levels. Ms. Gaudette indicated that all principals were trained in the reporting requirements of the law during the 10/11 school year. Under the Olweus plan each school must develop a Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee. Dr. Fletcher related an example from the Dartmouth Public Schools; a kindergarten teacher had well prepared her students regarding the necessary school bus safety issues and it prevented litigation. He suggested that training for schoolchildren be made regular and part of the everyday messages that the students receive to ensure that compliance is assured. Ms. Gaudette mentioned that the taskforce is recommending that classroom lessons and data collection will start 8 weeks into the school year.

6. *Welcoming Schools Project SY 11/12 update*

Ms Gaudette updated the members on the status of the Welcoming Schools Project. She indicated that a community group approached and met with the Supt. recently with an offer to provide Professional Development to principals and faculties. Their goals were to 1. Expand the original three school pilot and 2. Implement districtwide professional development to assist staff as they address unfamiliar GLBTQ issues and questions that may arise when conducting discussions with students.

7. Student Academic Progress (Galileo/benchmark assessments)

Ms. Doherty and Pacheco spoke about benchmark formative assessments that are predictors of success in MCAS testing. Committee members were surprised to learn that the district does not systematically gather DIBELS data for use by early childhood educators. Ms. Pacheco indicated that there is a district plan to train all K-2 teachers this upcoming school year to administer DIBELS and to efficiently interpret the results. Ms. Doherty indicated that *Galileo* is useful as a reliable predictor of MCAS success and that the process allows district administrators to devise questions that are tailored to reflect concepts taught and learned at critical points during the school year. Dr. Finnerty mentioned that this appears to be an area that needs greater coordination involving the Directors of Title I, Professional Development and the new Curriculum Administrator to ensure a comprehensive formative benchmark system that is highly predictive of MCAS success and can be used by teachers/administrators to inform instructional interventions.

8. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM. On a motion by Dr. Fletcher seconded by Ms. Pollock