

CURRICULUM SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

May 12, 2011

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:44 PM by Dr. Finnerty
2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
PRESENT: Dr. Finnerty (chair), Dr. Fletcher, Ms. Pollock
3. *Race to the Top* update

Andrew O'Leary provided each member with a *Preliminary Guidance on the Race to the Top Years 2-4 RFP April 15, 2011* and a *Race to the Top Powerpoint Overview*.

He reviewed the required projects and mentioned that the MassCore will be getting a lot of attention next school year. Also, that the state will soon require 4 years of mathematics to graduate high school. Dr. Fletcher mentioned that this will pose a challenge for many districts and asked how many years we now require. VHS and Web-based learning may be an option for some math classes. The focus at the high school level will be to develop "Your Plan for College." Dr. Francis, in response to Dr. Finnerty's question, stated that there was not a grievance filed regarding the additional work required of the guidance counselors to complete this work as it certainly seems that it falls under their general job descriptions.

Mr. O'Leary indicated that the district will be applying for SY 11/12 funding to enhance the Engineering Academy. The focus of all RTTT funding is on preparing students to graduate and move on to higher education. Ms. Pollock mentioned that many of the Engineering efforts remind her of the Tech Prep program that ran successfully between NBPS and BCC many years ago.

4. *Level 4 School* update

Supt. Francis indicated that Helder Angelo and Andrew O'leary will be working on an updated Turn Around Plan for submission to DESE. Ms. Pollock asked if ESD services had begun at Parker this school year. Supt. Francis indicated that they have not but that staff will work beyond the school year for 8 Professional Development training days this June/July. Dr. Francis added that Cambridge Education is the outside consulting firm working with Parker staff.

5. ***Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment for 2011-2012 SY***

Dr. Francis provided the subcommittee with an easy-to-read handout *Overview of Major New Bedford Public Schools' Initiatives*. It outlined the district's efforts for the next school year:

- **Research for Better Teaching PD for middle and elementary school staffs**
- **Efficacy Institute training for 3 Middle Schools and Hayden-McFadden staffs**
- **Technology Mediated Instruction (TMI) is underway now and will continue to also develop a "train the trainer model."**
- **An expanded TMI partnership with Friends Academy in collaboration with Harvard University is underway to highlight technology in the classroom and online PD.**
- **The "Literacy Across the Curriculum Initiative" led by a district-wide Literacy Action Team is preparing a first draft of a New Literacy Plan (due June 2011).**
- **Dropout Recovery efforts continue in partnership with Bristol Community College. This effort has the possibility for dual enrollment, career services and articulation with BCC for subsequent enrollment there.**
- **Level 4 School Initiatives at Parker may lead to a "laboratory school" model for other district school staffs to make visits once the changes are in place.**

6. **Other Business –**

The Supt. distributed copies of the MADESE District Review of New Bedford Public Schools. A team from the MADESE will attend the NBSC meeting in June to present the report.

7. **The Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. On a motion by Dr. Fletcher seconded by Ms. Pollock**

Lawrence J. Finnerty