

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Robyn Berke, Ms. Amy Esposito and Mr. Tom Hurley.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**Staff members present:** Dr. Marie McPadden.

A meeting of the Curriculum Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Thursday, April 07, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Amity District Offices.

**1. Call to order:** Chairman Browe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**2. State testing update**

- A. Science Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) were administered during March; CMT was administered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and the CAPT to 10 graders.
- B. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) was administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, using paper and pencil this year.
- C. The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) will be administered in both middle schools during early May for English language arts literacy and mathematics.
- D. The Governor and the Commissioner of Education announced a new step to reduce the State testing by eliminating the performance task portion of the SBA for grade 3 through 8, i.e., essays.
- E. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CDSE) has asked for a waiver for 2016-2017 for test scores not to be tied to teacher evaluation.

Dr. McPadden gave clarification to the Committee members regarding the SBA to be administered in grades 3 through 8 (letter C above); she also gave the Committee explanation and information related to the CSDE waiver for 2016-2017 for test scores not to be tied to teacher evaluation (letter E above).

Mr. Hurley and Ms. Berke suggested that students be given opportunities to become familiar with the new SAT format and the types of questions included. Mr. Hurley requested that the administration be certain that there are enough devices available for taking the SAT once it moves online.

Dr. McPadden continued the meeting by informing the Committee regarding items 3 through 5, below.

**3. Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR) universal assessment update**

- A. The STAR Universal assessments were administered midyear during the winter testing window. The results for the percentile and sealed scores were posted in PowerSchool.
- B. Students and parents have access to Study Island at home for additional practice in reading and math.

Ms. Esposito and Ms. Berke both stated that they felt more communication for parents and students is necessary related to STAR assessments and results.

**4. March 24<sup>th</sup> profession learning feedback**

- A. The Peer Learning Day on March 24<sup>th</sup> went very well. The feedback from both certified and non-certified staff was excellent. Departments met in the morning (grades 7 through 12) for science, mathematics, world language, physical education/health, fine arts, reading and special education and social studies. Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge-Amity (BOWA) K through 12 specialists met in the curriculum areas of world language, physical education/health and fine arts. English teachers grade 7 through 12 met with Lee Keylock of Narrative 4 (<http://www.narrative4.com/>) for a day-long session in how to use stories to teach empathy.

The afternoon sessions included a variety of choices for staff, including:

Technology offerings: Pear Deck; Excel; Study Island; PowerSchool; website development.

Fostering Creativity and Independent Studies.

Mr. Hurley requested a presentation of Pear Deck at the next BOE Curriculum Committee meeting.

(<https://www.peardeck.com/>)

**5. Bethany, Orange Woodbridge and Amity (BOWA) curriculum articulation update**

The BOWA Science Committee met on April 6<sup>th</sup> to review the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and to discuss placement of topics for grades 6 through 8. The CSDE has not yet released direction for middle school topic placement.

An article was shared and discussion follow related to the progression of the Seven Science Practices across grades K through 12.

The BOWA Social Studies Committee is scheduled to meet on April 25<sup>th</sup> to continue the discussion and planning of topics to be taught for grades 6 through 8 based on the new social studies framework.

The Committee members noted that there needs to be more time for science instruction in the elementary grades.

**6. Other – none.**

**7. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk\*

*\*Note that the Recording Clerk was not present at this meeting; minutes were transcribed from notes taken by Dr.McPadden and the Chair, Mr. Browe.*