WOODSTOCK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Academic Committee Regular Meeting **MINUTES**
Monday, Jan. 8, 2018 at 6 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room

Committee Members: Mrs. Megan Bard Morse and Mrs. Valerie Law; absent: Mrs. Rhonda Chenail
Board Members: Mrs. Joan Fortin
Administration: Mr. Viktor Toth, superintendent; Mrs. Wendy Durand, WMS principal; and Mrs. Jenna Demers, WES principal
Guests: Mrs. Ashley Harrington, WES teacher; Mrs. Arlene Maynard, WMS science teacher; and Mrs. Stacey Terwilliger, WMS science teacher

I. Call Meeting to order:
6:15 p.m.

II. Citizens Comments:
None

III. Approve Minutes from Dec. 4, 2017 meeting:
Motion to approve by Mrs. Law, second by Mrs. Bard Morse. Unanimous

IV. New Business:
A. Discussion of Next Generation Science Standards –

Implementation of the NGSS is a work-in-progress with the focus continuing student centered learning to develop critical thinking and problem solving using active inquiry and hands-on activities. Statewide assessments under new standards begin in 2019 with grades 5, 8, and 11.

Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Demers provided information on process underway at Woodstock Elementary School. Implementation began with K-3, as originally directed by the State, with 4th in the next academic year. Existing enrichment program with emphasis on STEM has helped the transition to the new structure and curriculum in K-3. Thought given to how to best bundle sections and pool resources between 3rd and 4th and possibly 4th and 5th grades. (Please see attached power point presentation for more information.)

Mrs. Terwilliger, Mrs. Maynard and Mrs. Durand discussed rolling implementation at WMS. Science department meetings to review current curriculum; sending teachers to specific training; investigation of special technology kits, use of regional STEM bus, and grants for classroom materials. Focus on guiding students in transition to more critical thought/problem solving classroom structure from traditional lecture-style/memorization instruction. New approach has increased engagement with quieter students and special education students.

Challenges and next steps include curriculum development; ongoing professional development/training (coordinated by the Professional Development Evaluation Committee); and taking an inventory of resources within the district that can be shared between WES and WMS and determining what is needed to support full implementation of the new standards.

B. Discuss subject topic for Feb. 5, 2018 meeting –

Invite Mrs. Kristen Elliott and staff to present information about the SRBI program.

V. Old Business:

None

VI. Citizens Comments:

None

VII. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. by Mrs. Law, second by Mrs. Bard Morse. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Bard Morse
Academic Committee, chair