

Curriculum Committee Meeting

**BFA Principal's Conference Room
Wednesday October 12, 2016**

8:30 AM

MINUTES

Present: Sally Lindberg, Jeff Morrill, Chris Mosca, Preston Randall, Sean O'Dell

1. Call to Order

Sally Lindberg called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Start of school in-service

Chris Mosca presented a folder containing all of the handouts received by staff at the in-service (management and instructional information). Chris explained how he described the changes brought about by Act 77 (portfolios, proficiency-based learning and graduation requirements, Canvas) require higher expectations for students and teachers alike. He stressed that these changes are supported by the literature (Wormeli & Guskey) that was studied over the past few years. For now, we have a combined system of traditional grades and proficiency scores, but this will evolve over time. There was a concern that this transition would be difficult on freshmen during a challenging time in their schooling. Chris pointed out that the P-8 schools already use proficiency-based learning, so the transition is actually more difficult for the teachers. Chris mentioned that the administration from all of our schools came together at Killington to learn and bond as colleagues.

4. Proficiency Based Learning

a. Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) Guide

This was a good first step in communicating the process for the changes brought about by Act 77, developed over the summer. Sean described the process for development of the document. There was a question about what data will be reported on report cards. Preston described how they intend the report card to look, which includes both

traditional and proficiency-based systems. Sean mentioned that we recently obtained an example of a transcript that integrates both systems and we are hoping to use that as a starting point. Having the transcript allows people to see the “end game” of proficiency-based learning and makes sense of the process. He also described the decaying average that accords more weight to more recent evidence of proficiency in each standard. A question was asked about colleges. Preston explained that colleges are very open to proficiency-based transcripts as they allow a more holistic view of student achievement. This led to a conversation about Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs (we are an Advanced Placement AP school). Chris asked that Preston be placed on the November board agenda to discuss the AP program here at BFA.

b. Canvas

Chris described that Canvas is our Learning Management System (LMS) that tracks portfolios and proficiency-based grades. We are only scratching the surface of what Canvas can do. As systems become more adaptable, they also become more complex, which is part of a learning curve we are seeing. We had teachers who became “experts” in Canvas over the summer and are now serving as peer trainers. All teachers had the opportunity to come in over the summer to learn the basics of the system and they tend to feel more comfortable.

c. Personal Learning Plans (PLPs)

Chris said that we are still in the beginning stages of PLP’s with sophomores and freshmen now using them. The end goal is that after four years students will have a beautiful portfolio of their work. The challenge is in the advisory system, where capacity will need to be developed. This will allow for customizing and personalizing the high school experience. A question was posed: will the P-8 portfolio transfer here to BFA? Chris stated that that is the intent.

5. Plan for October Professional Development

Identifying needs, grouping faculty to address the needs, peer-to-peer training.

6. New Course Proposals (if there are any)

a. AP Latin

Proposal allows Latin IV and AP Latin to be offered in the same period. All at the table agreed that this would be a good offering to support.

b. Dual Enrollment (DE) College Algebra

This course would be for students who are not at the level of Pre-calculus but who are planning on going to college. It would award college credit, but would be our teachers,

our classrooms, etc. They can use one of their DE vouchers to pay for the credits. Would this be a one semester or a two semester offering here at BFA? (It is a one semester course at Community College of Vermont (CCV).) All at the table agreed that this would be a good offering to support.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2016 at 8:30am

Potential Agenda Items: Updates, October 21 PD Report, how teachers are responding to the changes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39am.