

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2020**

On December 1, 2020 the Curriculum Subcommittee held its regular meeting using the Zoom on-line meeting platform.

In Attendance: Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, and Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Charlene Moske-Weber, Margaret Russo, Amy Richardson, Elaine Bombaci, Lisa Gray Duffy, and Natalia Pavia

Call of Meeting to Order

Dr. Pangallo called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and introduced Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone. Ms. Carbone introduced members of the nursing staff and thanked them for sharing information on the grades 4 & 5 Puberty Curriculum.

Grades 4 & 5 Puberty Curriculum

Ms. Elaine Bombaci began the presentation by explaining that this overview was to provide an introduction to the physical, emotional and social changes of puberty. She explained the format for the 4th grade curriculum consists of lessons on hygiene, skin, teeth, exercise and nutrition given by the gym teacher in the spring. The second part of the curriculum consists of the puberty education program with a movie and discussion given separately from the boys and girls. The grade 5 curriculum begins with a pretest to see how much the students know and also includes a movie, which is shown separately to the boys and girls.

Ms. Natalie Pavia explained that the curriculum is in alignment with the state requirements of physical health, social/emotional health, safety & prevention and personal and community health. She added that as part of the regulations, a sexuality education parental notification is sent out which gives the parents the option to opt their child out of the program if they choose. In that case, the teacher would prepare an assignment for the student rather than have them participate in the program. She also stated that the videos that are shown in the program are available for parents to review and allows them to open the conversation with their child.

Ms. Lisa Gray Duffy explained the concerns with implementation of this program. She suggests increased continuity through the district as a team approach would be beneficial. Also, although most nurses separate the boys and the girls for the program, the best practice is to keep the program co-ed. Another concern is that although the curriculum is from Frameworks, this has not been updated in 20 years.

The improvement plan they have recommended is as follows:

- Need inclusive curriculum
- Program should be co-ed
- Continuity among schools
- Up-to-date videos
- FAQ handout to go home with site resources/links/virtual health offices
- Ideally done over the course of a year in 4 sessions (45 min/each hygiene, body components & function, puberty & sexual orientation)
- Add an element of accountability (exit ticket, quiz or certificate of completion)
- Asynchronous option in the event some population of students become remote learners or for families that remain remote
- Accessibility of resources

Dr. Pangallo asked what the timeline is for implementing these improvements and the response was that they would like to start at some point this year or at least have schools consistent. Ms. Carbone added that if there would be any major changes, then they would inform the committee. Dr. Pangallo asked how this program would be handled in a remote environment, to which they responded that the nurse's office would offer the program virtually or as an asynchronous option.

Early Literacy Curriculum Grades K-2

Ms. Carbone explained that a year ago it was decided to review the early literacy curriculum. Ms. Carbone said that they are looking to secure some quotes to see what the costs will be and then they will make a determination. Ms. Campbell asked about Bentley and Carlton with their autonomy of the curriculum. Ms. Carbone responded that Bentley has shown interest and has nothing at the moment and Carlton has used Lucy Calkins.

Report Cards

There was a presentation of the district's transition to the K-8 standards based report card, including the benefits of standard based grading. Issues have been identified with our report cards. Several questions were asked by the subcommittee. At the moment K, 1 & 2 have transitioned, and there has been a budgetary request for the additional grades.

The next steps:

- Continue working with Aspen on Phase II changes for 2021-2022
- Solicit parent feedback and input
- Dr. Zrike have a Facebook Live discussion

Ms. Carbone said they will report back to the subcommittee.

Dr. Pangallo made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Campbell Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Motion carries 2-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

Executive Assistant to the School Committee

Approved December 22, 2020