Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023

On October 4, 2023 the Curriculum Subcommittee held its regular meeting using the Zoom on-line meeting platform.

Members In Attendance: Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Ms. Amanda Campbell, and Ms. Veronica Miranda

Others in Attendance: Deputy Superintendent: Kate Carbone, Ms. Kimberly Talbot, Mr. Andre Fonseca, and Mr. Marc LeBlanc

Call of Meeting to Order
Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm.

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Campbell made the motion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pangallo. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Campbell   Yes
Ms. Miranda   Yes
Dr. Pangallo   Yes
Motion carries 3-0

Approval of Technology recycling
Mr. Marc LeBlanc shares the technology items for disposal as of August 2023. The quantities, types, and reasons for disposal. The units up for disposal will relieve a lot of space.

Dr. Pangallo notes that approval of technology recycling will have to now be placed on the full School Committee meeting which will be held on October 16, 2023. Ms. Campbell moved this agenda item onto the full School Committee and Ms.Miranda seconded the motion. A roll call was taken.
Ms. Campbell   Yes
Ms. Miranda   Yes
Dr. Pangallo   Yes
Motion carries 3-0

Student Evaluation of Instruction report from June 23, 2023
Ms. Kimberly Talbot notes the work and findings in classrooms including Mr. Andre Fonseca. Ms. Talbot reviewed the abstract which was Salem Public Schools reviewing the SEI practices in 62 classrooms across 8 schools in the district. Of the strategies observed, only one strategy - the

use of visuals and audio scaffolds - was seen more than 50% of the time. Based on the findings, the SEI Review Team recommends that every school administration clearly articulates the district vision for SEI strategies with their school-based staff and performs regular walkthrough observations, with district staff, of these strategies. The SEI review team met on 5/24/23 and selected the following SEI strategies as the most crucial to observe in a classroom with mixed-level Multilingual Learners: visuals and audio, pre-taught vocabulary, meaningful interactions, background building, modified teacher talk, use of native language and cultures, and chunked/adapted text.

Ms. Carbone notes she wanted to start the year off strong and understand the current state of class and instructional practices in classrooms. This process started in the Spring but we felt it was important to do at the end of the year.

The analysis showed that out of the seven SEI strategies that were observed, only one strategy, the use of visuals and audio, were observed in more than half of the classrooms visited. 42 out of 62 classrooms observed were using some soft or visual or audio scaffold to support their Multilingual Learners.

Ms. Talbot reviews the recommendations based on the observations conducted and on the data collected, the SEI review team proposes the following recommendations:

Clearly articulate the Sheltered English Instruction strategies we expect all teachers to use in their classrooms at the beginning of SY23-24, ensure that SEI teachers incorporate the WIDA 2020 Standards into their lesson language objectives, focus on the highest leverage strategies first, perform frequent (monthly) walkthroughs of SEI classrooms at every school to hold staff accountable for implementing the SEI strategies, provide professional development around meaningful interactions, the use of native languages and cultures in the classroom, adapting texts, and teacher talk, and lastly investigate the intersection of school/classroom culture and SEI strategies.

Ms. Talbot notes the observations in each classroom have been the meaningful interactions, modified teacher talk, and adapting texts for students with a reading score of 2 or below on ACCESS.

Dr. Pangallo asks if the data captured this year is on the same metrics compared to last year? What other indicators on outcomes of using these practices should we be mindful of?

Ms. Talbot notes we are hoping for much more improvement from last year. The intersection of school and classroom culture is one outcome we are all hoping to see. Also, seeing meaningful interactions between students and helping students to see themselves as change makers in this space.

Ms. Carbone notes the shared partnering walkthroughs are a major difference from last year. This will achieve consistency in a way we have not led and supported in implementation of

these strategies. These are leaked to our core values as a district and as an achievement to our young learners.

Ms. Miranda asks if we have an idea of other schools who are stronger than others.

Mr. Fonseca notes the data regarding other schools has been confidential due to not wanting any schools spotlighted regarding their performances.

Ms. Carbone notes we do have plans to share these updates with the full School Committee at a future meeting.

Draft Technology plan

Mr. LeBlanc begins his technology plan for 2023-2026. Core priorities of the SPS strategic plan and as a team we took four points out of each strategic plan. The four points are as followed: Strategy 1.1 - accelerate academic achievement for all students, 2.2 - engage educators in high-quality professional learning designed to strengthen instruction and prepare them to meet the needs of all students, 3.4 - elevate the voices of students, parents and families to tap into their funds of knowledge and encourage them to take action and lead, and lastly 4.2 - fully integrate practices and guidelines district wide to build efficiencies and optimize impact.

Mr. LeBlanc notes ensuring students that all learning spaces have robust internet access for instruction and developing technology competencies, for administrators and educators providing support and tools in their learning via coaching, 1:1 and group training, for family and community working to develop a plan to further strengthen quality technology outreach to families and community members, and data informed to establish a data governance protocol to improve data accuracy while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

Mr. LeBlanc also reviews the future personnel opportunities such as potential involvement of library spaces, time block and personnel for technology teaching and tier one support. Also, rethinking the role of the Digital Learning Coach and strategizing support of applications and data integrations.

Dr. Pangallo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. Ms. Campbell made the motion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pangallo. A roll call vote was made.

Ms. Campbell   Yes
Ms. Miranda   Yes
Dr. Pangallo   Yes
Motion carries 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the Salem School Committee and Superintendent