



Curriculum Committee Meeting - Apr 28 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 4:30 PM

Central Office, 150 Colchester Avenue, Conference Room 1G

Present: Matthew Price, Gary Golden, Tom Flanagan, Lauren Klaffey, Katherine Grykien, Heather Amato, Melissa Zygmant

1. Opening

- A. Call meeting to order 4:30pm
- B. Suspend Robert's Rules

2. Public Comment - none

3. Discussion

- A. Committee Goals for the Current Academic Year Discussion defining the committee's primary objectives for the year. It was agreed that the committee will:
 - Serve as a dedicated resource for the district's teaching and learning plan. Conduct in-depth monitoring of the teaching and learning plan to evaluate its effectiveness.
 - Provide actionable feedback based on evaluations to help close existing opportunity gaps within the district.
- B. Updated Student Screening Procedures
 - The committee discussed the implementation of new screening procedures across the district, primarily in response to Act 139.
 - Elementary students in grades 1–5 will take the Star Renaissance universal screener three times per year (fall, winter, and spring). Kindergarten students will take the screener twice per year, in the winter and spring.
 - The new process utilizes a tiered approach to ensure all students are caught and supported:
 - 1. Universal Screener: A broad-based assessment given to all students.
 - 2. Diagnostic Assessment: Administered as a follow-up to students who are flagged by the universal screener.
 - 3. Intervention Plan: Development of a targeted plan to better support the identified students.
 - Primary Goal: To provide all individuals who are working with a student with a clearer understanding of student performance and to identify exact points for intervention.
 - III. Selection of New Screening Tool: Star Assessments by Renaissance The district is transitioning to a new screening tool due to the phase-out of the previous tool, Literably,

which was sold to a new company and is no longer viable for future use.

New Tool: Star Assessments, made by the company Renaissance, was selected as the new universal screener. It was described as being more widely used than other tools. This tool will be used in K-5 classrooms.

Benefits: It is briefer, can be used more broadly, and is conducted entirely on a computer. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Schedule: Official screenings will take place three times a year: September, December, and May. The tool can also be used intermittently if further evaluation of a student is needed. The 20-minute computer-based screening is not expected to add a considerable burden to teachers.

C. Professional Learning Plan Implementation

To ensure educators can make the best use of the data generated by the new assessment strategy, the committee discussed a focused professional learning strategy.

The overarching goal is to develop a comprehensive two-year professional learning plan for teachers and district staff.

The first year is already established. Teachers will complete three workshops, supplemented by ongoing coaching sessions, to support their delivery of Tier 1 instruction. Year two is in progress.

Professional development will help teachers narrow their focus to specific, grade-level challenges. This aims to streamline interventions and improve the efficiency with which student challenges are addressed.

Principals will play a critical role in this process by assessing what is happening in their buildings and actively supporting and impacting teacher development. Expanding this professional development to all schools is a major project that will take time to complete fully.

The committee discussed potential barriers to engaging teachers in this new learning. It was agreed that teachers' intrinsic desire to see their students succeed can drive motivation. Furthermore, the district plans to leverage peer-to-peer sharing, encouraging current teachers to share their successes with others to generate organic enthusiasm for these changes.

D. Additional Committee Discussions

A brief discussion highlighted how behavioral challenges in the classroom can significantly distract from learning. Addressing additional learning challenges and exploring behavior management techniques will be a formal goal for both the district and the committee going forward.

The committee briefly mentioned the need for further discussion and evaluation regarding the use of educational technology in the classroom.

E. Superintendent Flanagan provided a brief update regarding a district leadership transition. Discussed the transition plan following the departure of Director Phillips. The district is currently evaluating the organizational structure to determine what framework is best needed to advance the district's goals before filling the position. More information regarding the position and structural decisions will be forthcoming.

4. **Adjournment**
5:15pm

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