

Curriculum and Instruction Committee
February 24, 2021

In attendance:

Rita Kennedy, Board Of Education
Shannon Stringer, Board of Education
Lisa Brady, Superintendent
Doug Berry, Assistant Superintendent
Jean Gismervik, Director of Special Education

The Committee discussed the following items:

Special Education (also shared with Special Education Committee)

Addressing Reading Proactively

- Data Analysis has shown that a significant number of classified students who become eligible for targeted reading support through special class reading in the upper elementary grades have been classified in the primary grades and given speech and language services
- This speaks to the link between language based disabilities and reading development as well as challenges students face as readers in the upper elementary grades as the focus shifts from decoding to comprehension skills
- Delays in receiving special class reading services is a factor of the lengthy 3 step RTI (Response to Intervention) process that requires an incremental approach to providing specialized reading instruction prior to classification
- To address this our Special Education department is beginning to utilize Speech and Language pathologists to support reading development in the primary grades as part of their service model
- The goal is to develop a system to identify students who require specialized instruction for reading earlier through the Rtl process and then provide more targeted instruction through special class reading.
- Speech and Language providers will receive training in Wilson Reading - Orton Gillingham program

Special Class Program

- The district is exploring commercially available options that will provide for a more structured approach to curriculum delivery within the life skills program

- Assessments would be tailored to students within the special classes and their unique learning goals.
- This would allow teachers to provide improved and more meaningful feedback for parents of alternatively assessed students through the option of using a standardized curriculum.

NYS Assessment Update

- The status of 3-8 Assessments and Regents exams remains somewhat unclear
- While NYS had proactively submitted a waiver request with regard to federally mandated assessments indications are that US DOE is not going to allow that
- US DOE has indicated that they may provide flexibility to states that may include the ability to shorten the length and adjust the timing of assessments (including possibility of moving assessments to the early fall)

Return to Full Time In-Person Instruction

- Administration continues to plan for the reintroduction of students to full time in person Instruction on April 12th
- There are numerous issues related to this remaining to be addressed
- Efforts are ongoing to support all staff having access to the COVID vaccine
- Remote option would still be provided
- All staff meeting scheduled for March 3rd
- Community presentation scheduled for March 8th