

Arlington School District Study Committee  
Minutes—November 7, 2017

The Arlington School District Study Committee met on November 7, 2017 from 3:00PM to 4:20PM. Study Committee members present at the meeting were Dr. Joshua Sherman (Chair), Marshall Cross, Kate Bryan, Elizabeth Berger, Dr. Brian Allen, and Florence Belnap. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Bill Bazyk.

Dr. Sherman stated that he had a very positive meeting with the leadership of the Southwestern VT CDC in Bennington. Dr. Sherman clearly stated that the CDC is an excellent resource for the community at large, and we may want to work with them in the future to create additional satellite programs in Arlington. That said, at this recent meeting, Dr. Sherman learned that the CDC functions essentially as a stand-alone technical school. The CDC structure does not appear to allow for an integrated curriculum, which would compromise the Study Committee's larger vision of creating integrated pathways for the students of the BVSU/ASD.

Dr. Sherman and several other members of the committee feel strongly that to accomplish our hopes of an integrated curriculum, we will need consistent administrative commitment to the vision – and routine support of the students and faculty as this new curriculum is developed. This will not only require time, effort, and thoughtfulness - but also financial support. Recently, the state has mandated changes in which the operational costs have been shifted to the BVSU (rather than the ASD). It is for this reason that it is essential that the BVSU remain operating.

The goal at this time would be to request (from the State Board of Education) a five year extension of the BVSU. During this time, the BVSU would demonstrate to the state that an integrated curriculum is not only the best way to implement the hands-on Pathways mandated by the state – but is also a better educational system that could serve as a model for other schools (and even other states).

Superintendent Bazyk and Marshall Cross pointed out that requesting this would most likely fail and that the state would put us in a different SU without our input.

After extensive discussion, Florence Belnap voiced her concern that we needed to move forward in writing our final reports, which are due to the School Board soon. Dr. Allen volunteered to write an introduction and Elizabeth Berger volunteered to work with Superintendent Bazyk in writing a rough draft of the Act 46 report.

The group discussed the possibility of having Dan French help with writing the report on Act 77. Florence Belnap volunteered to contact him.

There being no further business, the group agreed to adjourn.