Grade 8 – 12 Transition Advisory Group Meeting Summary Meeting Number 7 – February 7, 2011 - RSU 13 Superintendent's Office – 3:00 PM

## **Membership Present:**

L. Berger, T. Forti, M. Gee, J. Lucarelli, M. A. McLean, W. Pearce, A. Riley, L. Schooley, C. Kesselheim (GSP Consultant).

The outcomes for this meeting included the following:

## **Summary of Meeting Outcomes:**

- 1. This meeting began with a review of the agenda and no adjustments were requested. In terms of general updates and sharing, the following points were highlighted:
  - A communication from Jennifer Garrett on January 10<sup>th</sup> was reviewed and discussed. The
    communication pertained to middle grade transition issues and specifically questions regarding
    how yearbooks will be formulated within the 8-12 configuration. TAG membership
    recommended that this communication be shared with the 'transition committee' working on
    these types of issues. This informal committee consists of Principal Schooley and mid-level
    counselors.
  - Principals Forti and Schooley shared their recommendation that the naming distinctions for the
    two Oceanside campuses simply be Oceanside East for the former RDHS and Oceanside West
    for the former GVHS. Other alternatives were contemplated, but this simple distinction
    preserves the ethic of equal partnership within this endeavor while providing that mailing and
    other information flows efficiently.
  - Principals Schooley and Forti reviewed the joint 8-12 faculty team visitation in mid-December to MDI High School. As a central component within the on-going professional development plan, this visitation was an opportunity to observe and review several educational features that will inform 8-12 program planning inclusive of advisory curriculum and procedures, a model for senior projects/exhibitions, 9<sup>th</sup> grade project-based learning, mathematics and ELA interventions delivered within 'lab' settings, and effective inclusion practices for special education students. An additional visit to Casco Bay High School is contemplated for later this winter.
  - Supt. Lucarelli noted that a plan is being developed to facilitate moving arrangements for teachers who will be relocated with the 8-12 configuration. An updated review of this planning will occur at the March 7<sup>th</sup> TAG meeting.
- Superintendent Lucarelli led a review and discussion of the remaining or continuing benchmarks contained within Phase II of the Continuing Work Plan as this project now enters Phase III. Benchmarks that were highlighted in this review included:
  - 2G Joint Faculty Meetings. Continuing joint faculty meetings and work sessions have been occurring regularly, with the primary focus devoted to completing the program of studies document and budget preparation for 2011-2012. These meetings have been occurring after school hours and faculty participants are being paid for this time via contractual 'work beyond contract' provisions partially funded through an NCLB grant. It is intended that the final editing process for the program of studies document will begin during the February school vacation week. It is expected that joint faculty meetings will continue throughout the remainder of this school year and into the summer of 2011 as necessary.

- 2H Facility Needs Supt. Lucarelli noted that highlighted facility needs are primarily at
  Oceanside East, and include upgrades to the science labs for 2011-2012 and renovations of
  bathroom facilities. These project recommendations are making their way through the RSU 13
  Facilities & Maintenance Committee and evolving budget process. Painting and other lower
  impact transition related projects are also being pursued for the summer of 2011.
- 2L Student Activities. Principals Forti & Schooley updated the TAG membership regarding student activities planned to facilitate unification of the student body and advance transition planning. Continuing joint student body meetings will occur to further review and act upon student-generated bills that were outcomes of unified student government meetings that occurred in the fall. Principals reported that student dances held at both campuses in January were successful and attended by students RSU-wide. Both campuses will be hosting 'step up' days in March so that students will be able to visit their respective schools for the coming school year and meet faculty. Principal Schooley has plans to visit the St. George School in February to meet with 7<sup>th</sup> grade students there to answer questions and provide information regarding the transition. Two days of programming facilitated by Camp Kieve is also being planned for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. An update on this endeavor will be provided at the March 7<sup>th</sup> TAG meeting.
- 2M Counselors Advisory . N. Guyer reported that the most recent Counselors Advisory group
  meeting was postponed due to a weather cancellation. A meeting with the counselors group is
  anticipated for February 15<sup>th</sup>., and this group continues to focus on advancing recommendations
  for administrative decision making regarding organizing guidance services, course weighting &
  class standing procedures, preparation for course planning and scheduling within the new POS,
  and other associated transition matters.
- 3. Superintendent Lucarelli led a review and discussion of the initial benchmarks contained within Phase III of the Continuing Work Plan. The following benchmarks were considered, and TAG group members offered questions and suggestions for altering timelines, clarifying those responsible for actions, or modifying intended procedures. Benchmarks that were highlighted in this review included:
  - 3A-RSU 12 Curriculum Committee review POS. N. Guyer noted that principals Schooley and Forti joined the Curriculum Committee at its monthly meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the draft POS. The response and discussion was highly favorable and the Curriculum Committee advanced a recommendation that a special, full school board workshop be held as soon as possible so that all RSU 13 school board members may benefit from learning more about the proposed POS for 8-12 programming.
  - 3B-Assessment of staffing needs. Supt. Lucarelli noted that the assessment of staffing needs is on-going and closely tied to the budget formulation process. Staffing needs for 2011-2012 will be reviewed with the school board at its next monthly meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 3D-Instructional day schedules for respective campuses. Principal Schooley noted that planning work sessions for Oceanside West are continuing with planning trending to support a day-to-day schedule for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders so that all students can be seen and instructed daily by their teachers. This planning work will continue with consideration given to programming options for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students wishing to access learning opportunities available at Oceanside East which continues to contemplate preserving the schedule currently in place.
- 4. C. Kesselheim and N. Guyer presented the details of a proposed longer term evaluation plan for 8-12 programming. This draft plan will be posted on the TAG website within 'working documents' and the review of this plan will continue at the March 7<sup>th</sup> TAG meeting.
- 5. The TAG membership confirmed that the next meeting will occur on Monday, March 7, 2011. This meeting will take place at the Superintendent's Office, conference room, 3:00 5:00 PM
  - This meeting was adjourned by Superintendent Lucarelli at 5:00 PM.