Grade 8 – 12 Transition Advisory Group Meeting Summary Meeting Number 3 – September 13, 2010 - RSU 13 Superintendent's Office – 3:00 PM

## **Membership Present:**

G. Emery, T. Forti, B. Gamage, K. Gamage, M. Gee, R. Gilson, N. Guyer, D. Johanson, J. Kalloch, J. Lucarelli, M.A. McLean, A. Riley, L. Schooley, C. Kesselheim (GSP Consultant was present for this meeting).

The outcomes for this meeting included the following:

## **Summary of Meeting Outcomes:**

- 1. Superintendent Lucarelli noted that via the TAG website, comments and suggestions from community members or other interested parties have been welcomed. Recently the first such comment was received. This communication was shared with TAG group members and a discussion was held regarding how to manage this and any future communications to TAG. The group membership decided that:
  - All messages received will be posted anonymously with the date they were received.
  - A location within the TAG website will be designated for posting all received communication.
  - That subsequent TAG meetings will begin with a review of all received communication.

The TAG membership further suggested that renewed attempts be made to have the 8-12 reconfiguration project profiled more frequently within the local press. Dr. Lucarelli and N. Guyer will investigate strategies to pursue this further.

- 2. Neal Guyer reviewed the Phase I benchmarks that were begun in the spring of 2010 and highlighted for completion by the conclusion of the summer. All of the planned benchmarks were accomplished and progress notes will be included in the September TAG Continuing Work Plan update posted within the 'working documents' of the TAG website during the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Superintendent Lucarelli led a review and discussion of the thirteen benchmarks contained within Phase II of the Continuing Work Plan. Each benchmark was read, and TAG group members offered questions and suggestions for altering timelines, clarifying those responsible for actions, or modifying intended procedures. It was also decided that a separate benchmark should be added to solicit a comprehensive review of technology that will support teaching and learning within the 8-12 configuration. This review will be conducted by the RSU 13 Technology Director and will result in a report/recommendations directed to the Superintendent and the RSU 13 Technology Committee by late December or early January. Neal Guyer will update the Continuing Work Plan with the conclusions and recommendations reached via this discussion, and will post the updated plan on the TAG website during the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Tom Forti, Larry Schooley, & Neal Guyer confirmed the essential training and professional development themes that will be emphasized in 2010-2011. Key to this effort will be to embed professional development content and information into the fabric of day-to-day work, and in expanding the capacity of leadership teams for both campuses in assuming a greater role within these endeavors. This professional development planning will be a continuation of Phase I Benchmark 1G, and will focus on continuing efforts within 9<sup>th</sup> grade teaming, expanding differentiated instruction and academic interventions, grading practices, and the use of one/one technology to support teaching and learning.

5. Craig Kesselhiem reviewed the four areas of inquiry that TAG will consider in developing an on-going program evaluation plan. It is intended that this plan be designed to not only monitor benchmark progress steps for program development, but also to identify the criteria upon which success will be defined over time. The four areas highlighted are described in greater detail in the TAG June 8, 2010 meeting summary, and included the criteria of perception, demographics, school processes, and student learning.

The purpose of this brief discussion was to re-orient the TAG membership to the over-all objective of constructing a longer range project evaluation plan (as contained in Benchmark 2F), and to set the stage for continuing this work together at the October TAG meeting as a central component of that agenda. In preparation, TAG members were asked to be thinking about possible evaluative questions to be utilized and multiple measures of data that may be utilized to frame this plan. Three examples offered by TAG members in the context of this discussion that will be pursed further in October included:

- Will the 8-12 configuration be effective in narrowing the achievement gap between the socioeconomic levels within our student population?
- Will the 8-12 configuration improve the 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic success rate?
- What data and indicators do we need to track and quantify over time to measure the expected improvement in successful transitions within the 8-12 configuration?
- 6. The TAG membership confirmed that the next meeting will occur on Monday, October 4, 2010. 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.