

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2012

Committee Members Present : S. Carleton – Chair, C. Bachofner, L. Andrews, G. Emery,
E. Schenk, D. Robishaw
Other Board Members Present : none
Staff Members Present : N. Guyer
Others Present : C. Kesselheim, Great Schools Partnership (GSP)
Location : Superintendent's Office – McLain School

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Sally Carleton, Curriculum Committee Chair at 5:35 PM.

II. Overview of the RSU 13 Mathematics Audit .

N. Guyer and Craig Kesselheim provided committee members with an outline of the Mathematics Audit Report that is due to be completed by the end of February. Committee members previewed the report contents that will be included in the following report sections:

- *Rationale & Overview*
- *A Description of the Audit Process, inclusive of staff interviews, student interviews, program of study analysis, review of instructional/assessment protocols, transcript analysis, teacher and administrative surveys, and a wide variety of performance & achievement data analysis.*
- *Limitations of the Audit*
- *Highlighted Findings*
- *Implications and Opportunities*
- *Critical Near-Term Decisions*

The initial administrative review of this report will take place on March 6th. Following that, it will also be considered by a review team of elementary, middle, and high school mathematics teachers to solicit additional feedback and recommendations. The RSU 13 administrative team is expected to make initial determinations regarding Critical Near-Term Decisions by mid-spring and these will be reviewed with the Curriculum Committee in April. It was emphasized that while the math audit has been an involved process of study, it is in many ways also a beginning of what will be a multi-year process of continuing deliberations, data study, and step-by-step decisions to improved mathematics teaching and learning within RSU 13. Within this continuing process, committee members encouraged soliciting additional information from parents via a parent survey.

III. New England Common Assessment (NECAP)

Committee members received a copy of the MEA & NECAP & MHSA Historical Profile which now includes six years of grade 3 – 8 historical data for RSU 13 schools. This report captures data by school and by grade level in reporting the percent of students meeting or exceeding standards for reading and mathematics on a yearly basis, and for writing at grades 3, 5, & 8. This historical profile is also posted on the district website in the 'assessment data' section under the Central Office banner. A more detailed report specifically profiling the fall 2011 NECAP results (2011 NECAP Study) will also be posted on the website by the end of February.

IV. Additional Updates:

Committee members received a handout profiling a summary of general finding and trends resulting from the Parity Study related to instructional minutes for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These results are being utilized by the administrative team in their work to confirm expectations for instructional minutes for all content areas regardless of school location, and to insure that these minutes (especially for reading/writing, mathematics, and science are contiguous). Central to this work are efforts also underway to more creatively schedule allied arts sessions (art, music, PE, etc.) so that core academics are less disrupted.

A final report resulting from the recent challenge of instructional and research materials (as per RSU Policy 3.11) was distributed and discussed. The issuing of this report concludes the mandated review process unless the complainant decides to appeal the report recommendations that were affirmed by the Interim-Superintendent. Any appeal would need to occur within 30 days of the formal decision which was rendered on February 16, 2012, and any appeal would need to be considered by the full Board.. Complainant recommendations regarding the review timelines included within Policy 3.11 will be forward for consideration by the RSU 13 Policy Committee.

V. Other/Adjourn:

The Curriculum Committee will meet again on March 15, 2012 – 5:40 PM – at the McLain School Building. Principals Forti and Schooley will join this meeting and agenda items will include:

- *Review of initial 9th grade results from the College Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA) and pre-view plans for the 12th grade administration – spring of 2012.*
- *Review of MSCT courses that will be accepted for content areas credit within the OHS Program of Studies.*
- *A discussion of 8-12 Core Planning Elements that were identified at the inception of OHS, progress updates and continuing challenges.*

Neal Guyer will also contact Josh Mahar (science instructor at OHS) to inquire about the possibility of a presentation to the Curriculum Committee in either March or April regarding his utilization of technology assisted support for science teaching and learning.

This meeting was adjourned by Sally Carleton at 7:00 PM.