

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13  
SCHOOL BOARD  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 5, 2014

Committee Members Present	:	G. Emery
Other Board Members Present	:	L. Andrews, S. Roberts, C. Curtis
Staff Members Present	:	S. Stilwell, K. Hollicker, K. Harrison, M. Wilhelm, N. Guyer
Others Present	:	Mr. Curtis
Location	:	Superintendent's Office – McLain Building

I. Call to order:

*This meeting was called to order by the acting Curriculum Committee Chair, G. Emery, at 4:00 PM. Committee Chair S. Carleton was absent due to illness.*

*It was noted that the typical meeting time had been changed from 5:30 PM to 4:00 PM to accommodate school principals who participated in this meeting. The meeting date was also changed due to a weather cancellation on February 27, 2014.*

II. Discussion of programming implications for a possible middle school merger – S. Stilwell, K. Hollicker, N. Guyer:

*RDMS Principal Hollicker, TGS Principal Stilwell, and Neal Guyer reviewed a prepared report detailing potential program benefits and challenges related to a possible middle school merger of grades 5-7 at the current RDMS facility. The Curriculum Committee's deliberations within this presentation and discussion focused on program implications only, and did not extend to financial or other logistical considerations. These deliberations also assumed that 5<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts would remain at the Owls Head Central School and at the St. George School.*

*Among the plausible benefits highlighted were:*

- *Unification and enhanced coordination of mid-level mathematics*
- *Potential for full-time allied arts assignments in several areas (art, music, world language, etc.)*
- *Potential for enhanced offerings – particularly in mathematics*
- *Concentrated and more focused access to technology integration, ESL, and GT services*
- *Enhanced professional teaming at grade levels and vertically within content areas*
- *Improved balance within special education caseloads*
- *Greater control of school scheduling for intervention periods, special projects, etc.*
- *Improved coordination and sharing of proficiency based project initiatives*
- *Enhanced access to after school programming*
- *Sharing of school cultures and experiences for on-going professional development (mid-level education, Expeditionary Learning, Positive Behavior Intervention & Support strategies, etc.*
- *Expanded access to school sponsored clubs and activities*
- *Consolidated athletic programming and efficiencies within associated transportation services & scheduling*

*Among the plausible challenges highlighted were:*

- *Marginally increased class sizes*
- *Limited dedicated instructional space for world language, health, and GT*
- *Cost of new program materials – particularly within mathematics*
- *Cost of funding work beyond contract during the summer of 2014 for program coordination and team building*
- *Special education facilities upgrades and lack of access for Life Skills students to OHS-W for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade mainstreaming opportunities*
- *Increased travel time for some students & implications for maintaining equitable access to programming (particularly after school programming) for all students*

*Board members attending expressed their appreciation for this initial report and discussed the need to advance a recommendation to the full RSU 13 Board that opportunities be created to hold community forums to share information and solicit input regarding a possible merger.*

III. Updates regarding Proficiency based Learning Initiative – implications and directions for RSU 13 – V. Veit, N. Guyer:

*Carissa Veit, RSU 13 Proficiency Based Project Manager, noted several professional development initiatives that are being sponsored for teams of elementary and mid-level/secondary teachers and principals via the New England PreK-3 conference in Manchester, NH, March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, and via the New England Secondary School Consortium Conference being held from March 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> in Norwood, MA. Both of these conferences will focus heavily upon professional development sessions focused upon the transition to proficiency based teaching and learning. Funding for these conferences is being provided with federal grant funds which have been approved by the RSU 13 Proficiency Based Steering Committee. Additionally, it was noted that on March 14<sup>th</sup> RSU 13's secondary teachers will participate in a regionally coordinated day of professional development opportunities. OHS will be hosting teachers from Camden Regional High School and RSU 40 within workshops related to proficiency based education while other schools will be hosting workshops sessions related to educational technology and the Art & Science of Teaching Framework (Marzano). The March 14<sup>th</sup> regionally coordinated secondary workshops are being coordinated and supported with the assistance of Many Flags.*

*On March 14<sup>th</sup> RSU 13 K-7 teachers will have focused presentations related to graduation standards within a K-12 proficiency model. Follow-up grade level meetings will then focus on discussions and brainstorming regarding implications for emerging changes in educational practice.*

*Finally, it was noted that the draft policy IKF – Graduation Requirements will go to the Board in first reading on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the intention of the Proficiency Based Steering Committee to host a parent informational meeting at OHS-W in advance of the second policy reading which will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This policy is a key foundational component of the transition to proficiency based practice. Arrangements for this parent informational meeting will be publicized once final arrangements are confirmed.*

IV. Other/Adjourn:

*The Committee confirmed that it will meet again on March 20, 2104 at 5:30 PM.*

*This meeting was adjourned by the acting Curriculum Committee Chair, G. Emery at 5:25 PM.*