

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2014

Committee Members Present	:	S. Carleton, G. Emery, C. Bachofner
Other Board Members Present	:	L. Andrews, S. Roberts, C. Curtis
Staff Members Present	:	M. Wilhelm, N. Guyer
Others Present	:	NA
Location	:	RSU 13 Board Meeting Room – McLain Building

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton, at 5:25 PM.

II. Updates regarding Proficiency Based Learning Initiative, implications and directions for RSU 13:

Committee members were reminded that the draft policy IKF – Graduation Requirements will go to the Board for second reading on April 3rd. The Proficiency Based Steering Committee will also be hosting a parent informational meeting at OHS-W in advance of the second policy reading which will take place on April 1st at 6:30 PM. Press releases for this event have appeared in the Free Press, Village Soup, and the Courier, and notices have also been posted on the OHS-E and OHS-W websites. This policy is a key foundational component of the transition to proficiency based practice.

Recent work efforts associated with this project have focused upon crafting procedures and parameters for proficiency based grading. 8-12 teachers, working in concert with the Proficiency Based Steering Committee, have taken the lead in this effort in order to be prepared for the 9th grade cohort of students who beginning in 2014-2015 will be the initial class to earn proficiency based diplomas. This working group will produce a draft grading guide that will then be vetted by the full faculty for eventual adoption later in the spring.

Several professional development initiatives are also being sponsored for teams of elementary and mid-level/secondary teachers and principals via the New England PreK-3 conference in Manchester, NH, March 31st – April 1st, and via the New England Secondary School Consortium Conference that was held from March 19th – 21st in Norwood, MA. Both of these conferences have, and will, provide professional development sessions focused upon the transition to proficiency based teaching and learning. Source funding for these conferences is via federal grant funds which have been approved by the RSU 13 Proficiency Based Steering Committee. Upon return, conference participants will reprise their learning experiences for colleagues during mini-sessions that will occur during common planning times and faculty meetings.

The Proficiency Based Steering Committee will hold a full day work session at the McLain Building on April 9th.

III. Discussion – FY 15 budget considerations related to curriculum:

Neal Guyer reviewed budget highlights associated with curriculum and professional development initiatives. The initial Improvement of Instruction Budget shows an increase of approximately \$61,000, due largely to anticipated purchases of middle level mathematics materials and supplements to the district-wide K-6 science kit program. Increased requests for local professional development workshops/conferences and college tuition costs for educational technicians were also noted. The RSU 13 Administrative Team will be continuing deliberations for possible reductions.

IV. Continued discussion regarding possible middle school merger:

Interim Supt. Wilhelm and Neal Guyer reviewed a five page draft profile of the proposed 5-7 middle school merger involving Thomaston Grammar School and Rockland District Middle School. The draft profile also contained information regarding implications for retaining grade 5 at Cushing Community School, Lura Libby School, and South School that would result in a middle school merger of grades 6 & 7. Each profile contained three year enrollment projections, the educational benefits and possible challenges involved, financial implications to be considered, and likely staffing patterns. This document will be shared with the full RSU 13 Board membership in advance of the April 3rd Board meeting. This information has also been shared with principals and staff, and will be made available at the third public forum to be held at Rockland District Middle School on April 2nd.

V. Other/Adjourn:

The Committee confirmed that it will not meet in April due to the frequency of budget workshops. The next scheduled Curriculum Committee meeting will take place on May 15th.

This meeting was adjourned by the Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton, at 6:40 PM.