

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13  
SCHOOL BOARD  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
June 6, 2012

Committee Members Present	:	S. Carleton, L. Andrews, G. Emery, C. Bachofner
Other Board Members Present	:	none
Staff Members Present	:	T. Forti, L. Schooley, H. Read, M. Eaton, S. Tribou, J. Mahar N. Guyer
Others Present	:	none
Location	:	Superintendent's Office – McLain Building

I. Call to order:

*This meeting was called to order by Sally Carleton, Curriculum Committee Chair, at 3:00 PM.*

II. Overview of the OHS Base Course proposal to be piloted in 2012-2013:

*Principals Schooley and Forti explained the conceptual basis for eliminating Technical-Vocational-Preparation (TVP) tracked courses from the Oceanside High School Program of Studies beginning with the merging of the two previous high schools. There was consensus expressed by all meeting participants that this former approach was discredited as failing to motivate or support students in attaining higher standards or improving academic performance. Since the elimination of TVP courses, OHS has been searching for effective strategies to strengthen the performance of lower performing students while maintaining high expectations and standards for all. To this end, OHS has researched and will pilot a 'base course' approach in each content area in grades 9 and 10 next year. Guiding principles for these courses will include:*

- *Access to these courses will be by assignment – not by student or parent choice or request.*
- *Classes will be small and will focus on skill development – identifying and compensating for gaps in learning.*
- *Assignments to courses will be based upon assessment-based, data-informed decision making & teacher judgment and recommendations.*
- *Students will earn graduation credit for successful completion of identified standards matching identified learning needs.*
- *Course design will acknowledge that students learn in different ways and at different rates – consequently learning plans will be individualized and personalized as necessary.*
- *Courses will be designed as standards-based/proficiency-based models and will utilize Educate Software to document and validate student progress.*

*It was explained that Hank Read will be working closely with teachers and principals to support software applications and this pilot might well serve as a template for further, district-wide standards-based learning design efforts. Principals Forti and Schooley will also define an evaluation plan to collect data and assess the efficacy of this pilot in supporting improved student learning outcomes.*

*Curriculum Committee members expressed endorsement of this pilot effort while cautioning that they were not supportive of reverting to historic 'tracking practices.' Members also strongly suggested that these courses be referred to as **Bridge Courses** rather than base courses to promote the hope that these learning structures will indeed provide a positive bridge to improved learning.*

III. Review of Draft K-7 Planning Parameters for 2012-2013 based upon the results of the parity student conducted by the Curriculum Committee:

*Neal Guyer distributed draft copies of the RSU 13 K-7 School Planning Parameters proposed for 2012-2013. It was explained that the administrative team had solicited teacher feedback regarding this guiding document and was in the process of detailing any final changes. The planning parameters document establishes consistent expectations district-wide pertaining to the use of common planning time, grade-level and vertical team structures, core academic instructional minutes, and the structure and delivery of allied arts and other support services.*

*Having common expectations and parameters district-wide will be a new experience for RSU 13, and is seen as yet another step in building and maintain district unity.*

IV. Other/Adjourn:

- *Committee members were advised that efforts will be made in early summer to update and post assessment reports for the RSU 13 Writing Assessment and the Progress Monitoring Report for 2011-2012.*
- *The Committee agreed that there will be no July 2012 meeting.*

*This meeting was adjourned by Sally Carleton at 3:55 PM.*