

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13  
SCHOOL BOARD  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
August 21, 2014

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

***Please note; this meeting took place from 5:00 – 6:15 PM in advance of an RSU 13 Board Meeting which had been scheduled for this date beginning at 6:30 PM.***

I. Call to order:

*This meeting was called to order by Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton at 5:00PM.*

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

*Carissa Veit reviewed the work accomplished by a team of RSU 13 teachers and administrators during the Maine Principals Association (MPA) Conference that occurred June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at the Point Lookout conference facilities in Northport. RSU 13 sent a team of 24 working members from across the district and across grade levels. Board Chair Roberts and Vice-Chair Andrews also attended workshop sessions and visited with RSU 13's team. The professional focus for this conference was the transition to Proficiency-Based Learning. The result of this team effort was that a comprehensive work plan for the 2014-2015 school year was developed. The plan was shared and reviewed with committee members. This plan will be utilized by the Proficiency-Based Steering Committee, school leadership teams, and the administrative team to guide school-wide and district grade-level projects throughout the year. The agenda for the first teacher workshop day (August 27<sup>th</sup>) was also shared with committee members. The professional development goal for August 27<sup>th</sup> is to orient the entire faculty to the planning work that was accomplished during the summer months and define project goals going forward.*

*Committee members expressed their continuing appreciation for this work and stressed the need for continued community outreach and communication so that these developmental efforts continue to be viewed positively and constructively within the community-at-large.*

*It was also noted that the Proficiency Based Steering Committee has endorsed the application of a one year extension for implementation of a proficiency-based diploma – extending to the class of 2019. This will require action by the RSU 13 Policy Committee with needed amendments to Policy IKF.*

III. Updates on K-7 World Language:

*Neal Guyer informed committee members that the recruitment process for Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) is continuing, but progressing more slowly than hoped. Two acceptable FLTA candidates are preparing to join RSU 13 pending clearance of the necessary J-1 Visas that will allow them to travel to, and work in the United States. If clearance is gained, it is unlikely that the FLTAs would be able to begin until early to mid-October. When confirmed, the world language program within this model will provide:*

- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades to be taught by a FLTA, two sessions per week for 30min. Teachers will have to be present in the classroom during instruction.*
- 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades to be taught by existing staff, two sessions per week.*
- K-3 classes scheduled for monthly or bi-monthly special presentations/activities with FLTAs.*

*If FLTAs do not become available, then the RSU will need to contemplate recruiting a second elementary world language teacher for the 2014-2015 school year.*

#### IV. Committee discussion – goals for the 2014-2015 academic year:

*A brief discussion was held regarding committee goals for the year. This discussion will continue at the September meeting. At this meeting the following goals were articulated:*

- Review of what RSU 13 would need to do to create and maintain a 'State approved' Gifted & Talented Program. A State approved program would make the district eligible for reimbursement of program costs.*
- Create a strategic plan for the unification of district-wide programs and upgrading of teaching resources.*
- Exploring the curriculum, programming, and learning implications of 'mindfulness.'*

#### V. Other/Adjourn:

*Board Chair Roberts noted that he had appointed George Emery to replace departing board member Marla McGeady as a continuing member of the Curriculum Committee.*

*The Committee confirmed that the next scheduled Curriculum Committee meeting will take place on September 25, 2014 at 5:30 PM. This reflects the committee's decision to move its regular meeting to the fourth Thursday of the month and return to the traditional meeting time of 5:30 PM.*

*The primary agenda item will be a discussion of the status of the Gifted and Talented Program, and the review of the criteria for creating and maintaining a State approved program.*

*This meeting was adjourned by the Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton at 6:20 PM.*