

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2012

Committee Members Present : S. Carleton, L. Andrews, C. Bachofner, D. Robishaw
Other Board Members Present : E. Kilgour, G. Emery
Staff Members Present : T. Forti, L. Schooley, N. Guyer
Others Present : press
Location : Superintendent's Office – McLain Building

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Sally Carleton, Curriculum Committee Chair, at 5:37 PM.

II. Overview of the OHS Bridge Course pilot work accomplished during the summer of 2102:

Principals Schooley and Forti reminded committee members of 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 and in recognition that this former approach was discredited as failing to motivate or support students in attaining higher standards or improved academic performance. In the spring of 2012 teacher leaders working in concert with school principals researched and began work on a pilot 'bridge course' approach for grades 9 and 10 beginning in the fall of 2012. Principles guiding the development work that has occurred during the summer of 2012 include:

- *Access to these courses will 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.*

Principal Schooley noted that bridge courses offered at OHS-W will be team taught and will focus on English language arts and mathematics. Principal Forti notes that 10th grade bridge courses will be offered at OHS-E in economics, English language arts, biology, social studies, and mathematics. Progress monitoring data will be systematically collected to assess the efficacy of the 'bridge course' approach in terms of improving learning outcomes and in supporting students' transition to more advanced courses.

Committee members requested that an update on this pilot project be planned for the January or February 2013 Curriculum Committee meeting.

III. Update on OHS writing assessment changes proposed for 2012-2013:

Principal Forti explained the rationale for moving from a pre/post writing assessment process for grades 8-11 beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year. 2012 spring assessment results from previous grades will be utilized as baselines for progress monitoring spring-to-spring. Also under contemplation is staggering assessment administration for different grades throughout the spring which would allow for more strategic scheduling of assessments and more flexible time for scoring efforts.

IV. Review and discussion of success rates at OHS-W:

*Principal Schooley reviewed the information that was provided to the local press in reviewing learning success indicators for OHS-W during the 2012-2013 academic year. Principal Schooley reiterated his contention that any student failure continues to be of concern and that OHS West and East are taking proactive steps in supporting students. Bridge course development efforts noted earlier in the meeting were referenced as well as **coaching classes** that are being developed at OHS-W for initiation in 2012-2013. These classes will focus on identifying and addressing specific areas of academic need as well as explicitly teach positive habits of work inclusive of study skills, organizational strategies, personal goal setting, etc. Students will enter and exit coaching classes based upon demonstrated need and established patterns of improvement.*

IV. Other/Adjourn:

- *Committee members were provided with a final draft of K-7 Planning Parameters.*
- *Committee members discussed an email request made by Mrs. Beverly Cowan to address the committee regarding her concerns about textbook research related to teaching about Islam. Committee members recommended that Mrs. Cowan be contacted by Chair Carleton and N. Guyer with a request that she provide a one page, concise, written summary of her concerns indicating:*
 - *What further information she intends to share that has not been made available via the Executive Summary previously provided to all committee members.*
 - *Whether or not she has a specific concern regarding RSU 13 practice.*
 - *Any specific action that she is requesting.*

Mrs. Cowan's response should be directed to Chair Carleton who will then share this information with committee members.

- *The Committee confirmed that it will meet again on September 20, 2012 – 5:40 PM.*

This meeting was adjourned by Sally Carleton at 6:38 PM.