

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2012

Committee Members Present : S. Carleton – Chair, C. Bachofner, L. Andrews, G. Emery,
E. Schenk, D. Robishaw
Other Board Members Present : none
Staff Members Present : A. Pietroski, K. Hollicker, L. Schooley, N. Guyer
Others Present : RDMS Robotics Team members & RDMS parents
Location : Rockland District Middle School

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Sally Carleton, Curriculum Committee Chair at 5:40 PM.

II. Demonstration – Student Engagement in Learning; Anne Pietroski, Tom Wright, K. Hollicker & RDMS Robotics Championship Students.

The Rockland District Middle School Robotics Team students recently competed in the Maine Robotics Championship in Augusta, Maine. Students were responsible for building and programming their robot, constructing the playing field equipment, and researching a topic for this year's challenge - Food Factor. Their research and competition project focused upon the safe transport of lobster from Maine to Japan.

- *Students performed a skit in the form of a talk show highlighting the research that was conducted to address this year's competition problem.*
- *Students then demonstrated for committee members the robot and computer program they used to run the robot.*
- *Students were articulate and obviously engaged in this technical work as they answered a variety of questions from Curriculum Committee members.*

Anne Pietroski and Tom Wright emphasized that the students' project was judged within the dimensions/standards of mechanical design, programming, strategy & innovation, research, innovative solutions, presentation, inspiration, teamwork, and gracious professionalism. It was also highlighted that participation has not been limited to students qualifying for gifted and talented support services, and there is evident interest from a wide variety of students to join this or similar activities. It was also noted that this represents a learning strategy that capitalizes on integrated learning in a way that is highly engaging for students – and that we should contemplate how these strategies can become more common in regular curriculum and not stand alone as extracurricular endeavors.

Committee members thanked all involved for a highly interesting and impressive demonstration!

(Neal Guyer will follow up with students – sending a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Curriculum Committee)

III. Overview and discussion of the basic elements of standards-based educational practice; L. Schooley & N. Guyer.

Principal Larry Schooley (OHS-W) provided an overview of the basic elements of standards-based practice emphasizing the need for clearly stated learning targets, formative assessment to inform teaching, summative assessment to determine the extent to which learning targets are mastered, the limitations of traditional grading practices within a standards-based system, and the importance of access to effective interventions for those struggling to meet learning targets. RSU 13 is in the beginning stages of instituting standards-based approaches, but these efforts are seen as congruent with the recently released strategic plan for education in Maine – Education Evolving – Maine's Plan For Putting Learners First.

IV. Additional Updates:

Neal Guyer informed committee members that an initial review of the Parity Study has been completed and administrative team members are beginning to process results with two primary goals emerging:

- 1. To research innovative ways to structure and/or integrate allied arts curricula to enhance the ability to schedule contiguous instructional minutes within core content areas.*
- 2. To determine instructional minute standards for core content areas to be implemented in all of RSU 13 K-7 schools beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.*

Additional information from the parity study will be shared at the next Curriculum Committee meeting.

V. Other/Adjourn:

Neal Guyer will confer with Chair Carleton regarding the scheduling of the next Curriculum Committee meeting since the regularly scheduled date falls within the February school vacation week. Highlighted topics at the next meeting to include:

- Additional findings from on-going parity study – implications for program planning and budget development.*
- Update on the RSU 13 Mathematics Audit*

This meeting was adjourned by Sally Carleton at 7:20 PM.