

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2011

Committee Members Present : S. Carleton, C. Bachofner, L. Andrews, G. Emery
Other Board Members Present :
Staff Members Present : N. Guyer, M. Thill, K. Harrison, A. Gourion
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 5:45 PM.

II. Update on the current status of world language programming in RSU 13 grades K-7:

The Curriculum Committee was pleased to welcome faculty members responsible for French instruction at the district's elementary and middle schools; Megan Thill, Kit Harrison, and Anne Gourion. Kit Harrison introduced Anne Gourion who is serving the Cushing, Lura Libby, and St. George schools as a foreign language teaching assistant (FLTA) for this school year, and together they provided background information regarding the Fulbright FLTA Program that was begun in MSAD 50, and has now been a central element of world language instruction for the past seven years.

Kit Harrison and Megan Thill profiled the historical background for how language instruction had been structured and maintained in the two former SADs, and noted that with the beginning of this academic year instruction across the RSU has been unified – focusing on French instruction for grades K-7 in west side schools and in grades 4-7 for east side schools. This has allowed for unified curriculum development efforts and coordinated planning for continued program expansion consistent with Curriculum Committee goals. Samples of student work, curriculum materials, and developed learning targets were shared with committee members.

Faculty members strongly endorsed the Curriculum Committee's goal of extending world language programming to all students in grades K-7 across the RSU in 2012-2013, and believe that the inclusion of a second FLTA would be of great benefit – especially in supporting the learning of younger students.

Neal Guyer provided an analysis of probable enrollment, anticipated need for instructional sessions by school, and cost profiles for three different staffing options for 2012-2013. Negotiations have been initiated with the International Institute of Education (IIE) regarding the possibility of recruiting a second FTLA for RSU 13. This is the preferred staffing option both educationally and economically, but other options need to be contemplated should this prove to not be feasible.

Committee members reaffirmed their commitment to supporting this program development goal and its inclusion in the 2012-2013 budget development process.

III. Report on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for RSU 13 schools:

Neal Guyer distributed and reviewed a report chronicling the AYP status of RSU 13 schools from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. Committee discussion centered around No Child Left Behind legislative initiatives for re-authorization and/or the application of state waivers, the increased targets for meeting AYP, changes in assessments and testing schedules, and historical results for RSU 13 schools. Committee members were reminded that the failure of one subgroup within a school (sp ed, economically disadvantaged, etc.) to meet specific targets results in the whole school not meeting AYP targets. Also, that sanctions and funding associated with not making AYP only apply to schools that receive NCLB Title 1A funding.

IV. Update on parent challenge of instructional and research materials at Rockland District Middle School:

Sally Carleton and Neal Guyer informed the committee that a challenge to instructional and research material pertaining to three books included in the Rockland District Middle School library collection has been initiated by a RSU 13 parent. A Review Committee has been formed consistent with RSU 13 Policy 3.11 & 3.11P including:

<i>Larry Schooley</i>	<i>OHS-W Principal – serving as Review Committee Chair</i>
<i>Pat Higgins</i>	<i>OHS-W Library Media Specialist</i>
<i>Melanie Slocum</i>	<i>RDMS Teacher</i>
<i>Sonja Schmanska</i>	<i>SGS Teacher</i>
<i>Sally Carleton</i>	<i>RSU 13 Curriculum Committee Member</i>
<i>Wayne Sawyer</i>	<i>St. George Community Member</i>

The Review Committee held its first meeting on November 17, 2011, and will meet again on December 8, 2011.

V. Other/Adjourn:

The Curriculum Committee confirmed its next meeting will occur on December 15, 2011. On December 15th the committee will:

- Review administrative procedures being implemented to further study ‘parity of learning opportunities’ across schools in RSU 13.*

This meeting was adjourned by Sally Carleton at 7:15 PM.