

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2017

Committee Members Present : L. Andrews, C. Bachofner, S. Allen Thomas
Other Board Members Present : none
Staff Members Present : B. Johnson, N. Guyer, J. McDonald, K. Gould,
L. Walsh, D. Tibbetts
Location : McLain Building, Rockland

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Committee Chair L. Andrews at 3:35 PM.

II. Technology: B. Johnson & Attending Technology Integrators

The committee welcomed RSU 13 Technology Integrators for a continuation of discussion related to the strategic plan review. The existing document speaks very little (as authored in 2013) as to the role of educational technology within the district's planning and visioning for the future. The discussion at this meeting focused upon a deeper investigation of the themes and ideas that will serve to inform guiding principles and action steps within the next iteration of the district's strategic plan. Highlighted themes included, but were not necessarily limited to the following:

- *Throughout the existing strategic plan, the emphasis has been on building up a base of technology resources and access for one/one deployment K-12. Now that milestone is (hopefully – FY 18 budget pending) being realized, the emphasis needs to shift dramatically to effective utilization via impactful and targeted professional development.*
- *There needs to be a discrete/specific acknowledgement of the skill set needed by 21st Century educators in order to apply technology resources effectively to teaching and learning. These skills need to be considered as essential pedagogical abilities that are expected to be applied in the support of student learning, and not merely as tools to be utilized at the discretion of the individual teacher. Additionally, these pedagogical skills need to be identified and evaluated within the district's Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth Program (PEPGP).*
- *The district's technology team and educators need to be tasked with the development of a 'technology curriculum' to support developmental student learning. Grade level standards for technology learning and applications will need to be defined for grade appropriate skill development and expectations, and in realization that learning skills to reinforce adaptability through/in co-learning within peer and adult discovery, risk taking, and application - will continue to be essential as new technologies emerge and develop. It is suggested that the Maine Learning Results Guiding Principles highlight learning themes that can be harnessed to define and reinforce these elements of continued technology learning and development for all students.*
- *Old pedagogy delivered new. The effective application of technology to teaching and learning reinforces what has always been acknowledged as 'best practice' and makes it easier and more realistic to achieve. The basic pedagogical steps of formative assessment, data informed planning, delivery of differentiated instruction linked to specific standards and assessments, and summative evaluation – become easier to target and deliver via technology and need to be embraced by all educators. This is also seen as particularly applicable to the emerging expectations embedded in proficiency-based learning where learning is intended to be the constant and time is the variable.*

- *The paradigm shift for the teacher in this context is from teaching to the middle or being the sole source of instructional content/delivery, to utilizing technology resources effectively and appropriately to differentiate for individual learning needs and styles, support individual pathways to relevant learning, and to enhance student engagement.*
- *Just as we expect that differentiation for students will support impactful learning, it must also be recognized that differentiated and supported learning is also critical for professional staff in order to grow and develop in the utilization technology skills. It is essential that the district maintain its team of technology integrators to work with colleagues in this critical endeavor.*
- *There is an acknowledgement that the time for impactful professional development is scarce. With this in mind, the district should continue to design and deliver 'technology boot camp days' providing opportunities for teachers and students to engage in technology learning together as a component of regular school programming – not necessitating early release or defined professional development days within the school calendar.*
- *The district participates in the periodic Bright-Bytes Technology survey – which tracks utilization and perception data for technology utilization within the **Four C** categories of creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. Additionally, the district needs to identify data sources that will be relevant in assessing over time the impact of technology utilization upon student learning. Reporting strategies also need to be considered and designed so that the community-at-large is informed of how investments in educational technology are being applied and impacting successful student learning and outcomes.*
- *As the utilization of educational technology becomes more and more ubiquitous, research regarding the health impacts of over-extended 'screen time' must be utilized to guide the formulation of standards of use within schools – and to suggest recommendations to parents for home utilization intended for school purposes.*

Committee members expressed their sincere gratitude for a lively and informative discussion. These themes and ideas will be important for continued consideration as strategic planning and work on the district's technology plan moves forward.

III. Curriculum: N. Guyer

A quick update was provided on the conclusion of the K-5 literacy pilot initiative that has been underway during this school year. The piloting team has advanced a formal recommendation to the administrative team and negotiations with a vendor have commenced. It is hoped that these negotiations will result in a K-5 program adoption that will be accomplished for less than the projected budgeted amount – saving the district between eight and ten thousand dollars. Negotiations with the vendor will also include on-going professional development services that will occur during the month of August and into early October of the 2017-2018 school year.

IV. Other/Adjourn:

It was confirmed that the Curriculum-Technology Committee will meet again on May 22, 2017 – 3:30 PM – McLain Building in Rockland.

Chair Andrews adjourned this meeting at 4:35 PM.