

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13  
SCHOOL BOARD  
CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 25, 2019

Committee Members Present : L. Andrews, C. Bachofner  
Other Board Members Present : G. Weinand  
Staff Members Present : J. McDonald, S. Tribou, B. Johnson  
Location : McLain Building, Rockland

I. Call to order:

*This meeting was called to order by Loren Andrews at 3:31pm.*

II. Technology:

➤ **School wiring project update**

*The high school has another three weeks of wiring to go, and once that project is complete, all of the wiring will be new and up to date. Network Maine, our ISP, is changing the head end of the network from Central Office to Oceanside Middle School. By April break, Central Office will no longer be the head of the network. With the middle school being the head end, OMS will have a 10-gigabyte connection to the internet. As the wiring project finishes, we can finish the implementation of the new phone system as well. This work is currently underway at the middle school and the high school will be next. Feedback on the new phones is suggesting that the quality of service is pretty good; there was one hiccup at the bus garage with connection of the voice over IP, but this has been resolved. By the end of this project, there will be access to a phone in every classroom.*

➤ **Thornton Academy Visit**

*John McDonald and Bruce Johnson visited Thornton Academy in Saco on March 12 when they hosted schools for a technology visit. This school is labeled as an Apple Distinguished School. They are currently piloting Apple pencils one to one for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The tour highlighted a very supportive technological community. Every class showed the use of technology, and it was natural in a way that suggested that this is part of the everyday environment for students. It was even incorporated into a dance class. Students and teachers embrace technology and see positive outcomes. Technology supports learning as opposed to serving as a distraction. RSU 13 may consider strategically piloting the use of apple pencils to weigh the pros and cons of a larger pencil purchase to replace keyboards as an option for students. An important next step for RSU 13 is helping teachers move their content into a digital world.*

➤ **Processes and Protocols in development from the Instructional Technology Committee**

*This committee is currently working on prioritizing professional development for new teachers as well as how to revisit technology training with existing teachers on a monthly basis through prioritized offerings throughout the school year in order for teachers to take advantage of training on an as-needed basis.*

III. Curriculum:

➤ **Update on Science Pilots K-5**

*\*During Trimester 2, K-5 teachers piloted Foss, Mystery Science, and Stemscopes. Each have varying degrees of an online components. Results of the pilot will be analyzed by the vertical science team this Thursday, and the piloting team will get together one more time next week. Results will be available to share with this committee at our next Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting.*

➤ **Overview of current curriculum and administrative priorities**

*Steffany Tribou shared a comprehensive list of current curriculum and administrative focus areas as well as a list of slated focus areas for next year that are currently known at this time. In addition, sample schedules of K-5 teachers were shared to frame the discussion since any “add” will need to result in something that needs to be rethought in terms of demands for time.*

➤ **Discussion of foreign language approaches in RSU 13**

*\*Mr. Weinand shared a proposal of an idea of a language integrator (similar to the role of a technology integrator). Discussion of integrating a language by having a language teacher coordinator (1 instructor for the four schools to teach a course for 30 minutes a week for K-1 or K-2 then work with teachers to help them integrate the rest of their unscheduled time).*

*\*Ms. Bachofner shared a proposal to integrate American Sign Language into programming.*

*\*Discussion: 30 minutes per week is not enough. One suggestion is 20 minutes per day with a teacher that travels. Spanish is a suggested language due to the cognates as well as how the language sounds like what appears on the page (more easily pronounced).*

*\*Steffany Tribou will check in with Lavinia Rogers, who works as the state World Language liaison. Steffany will also reach out to MCLA (Maine Curriculum Leaders Association) to gather some input for how other districts provide K-5 World Language Instruction.*

*\*Board members also entertained additional discussion around the possibility of extending the school day in order to satisfy additional demands.*

IV. Other/Adjourn:

*The committee will meet again on **April 22, 2019 at 3:30pm**. Future agenda items to include:*

*\*Share the outcome of the K-5 Science Pilot*

*\*Provide an update on feedback from Lavinia Rogers from the DOE and MCLA*

*Board Chair Andrews adjourned this meeting at 5:01 pm.*