

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2016

Committee Members Present	:	L. Andrews, D. Robishaw, S. Thomas
Other Board Members Present	:	C. Curtis
Staff Members Present	:	N. Guyer, J. Curtis, M. Norman
Others Present	:	S. Betts
Location	:	McLain Building – Rockland

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Committee Chair L. Andrews at 1:30 PM.

II. Curriculum:

- a. Overview of summer curriculum projects, pilot initiatives, & professional development.

Neal Guyer profiled the following initiatives:

- *Two K-5 literacy program pilots will be occurring during FY 17. Approximately 16 faculty members are participating district-wide and specific evaluative criteria for comparing and contrasting pilot programs have been identified. All participating teachers have been involved in day-long training sessions and follow-on training sessions are being planned for the fall. A final program selection will inform budget priorities for FY 18.*
- *Based upon pilot outcomes in FY 16, Oceanside Middle School will be adopting a new math program (Go Math) during FY 17. Implementation training for grade 6-8 teachers occurred in August.*
- *Inquiry-Based Science units for Earth Science/Grade 6, Life Science/Grade 7, and Physical Science/Grade 8 are being adopted at Oceanside Middle School for FY 17. This is occurring in partnership with the RISE Center via the University of Maine. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are aligned with these instructional units.*
- *A program called Mystery Science will be piloted at the grades 2-5 at the Thomaston Grammar School. This is also an inquiry-based model for instruction and is aligned with NGSS.*
- *All of these programs and initiatives offer a good mix of technology-based resources, hands-on learning activities, and more traditional hard copy materials in meeting diverse student learning needs.*
- *It was also noted that consolidation of the middle schools is strongly supporting and encouraging instructional program unification.*

b. Report on the status of elementary world language – N. Guyer explained:

- *The RSU 13 Administrative Team has recommended suspending elementary WL for one year while faculty and administration research and strategize about how best to proceed in planning for FY 18. Principals concluded that the model utilized last year (having one teacher rotate thru temporary school placements serving grades 3-5 introductory French) proved not to be as effective as had been hoped.*
- *In FY 16 – WL (French) was provided in grades 5-7; two 40 min. sessions weekly. This year – Oceanside Middle School will be offering both French and Spanish.*
- *The Curriculum/Technology members all expressed their full support for elementary WL, and one of the committee's goals for this year will be to collaborate with faculty and the administrative team in researching options and propose continuing plans for FY 18.*

c. Overview of 9th Grade Academy program development – Principal Curtis noted:

- *The 9th grade team has been meeting regularly and working closely with Great School Partnership for technical assistance, program development support and links to related resources. Historical student performance data has been a focus for planning, student schedule development, and the basis for proactive contacts with students and families for informing them of program features and goals.*
- *The primer goals of the 9th Grade Academy is to welcome students into their secondary level learning experience, maximize student engagement through personalized instruction, and secure patterns of growth and success for students early in their secondary careers. The 9th grade team is also identifying data points and informational tracking sources to assist in evaluating over-all program performance and inform needed modifications along the way.*
- *Committee members strongly supported the on-going efforts of the 9th grade team and also noted that the committee will welcome updates on other academy efforts (Fisherman, STEM, Fine Arts) at Oceanside High School during the coming year.*

III. Technology:

- a. Update on summer projects, deployment of new equipment, and professional development initiatives. Bruce Johnson updated committee members on the following points:

- *New MLTI equipment expected in July is just now beginning to arrive (mid-August). This will unavoidably delay the deployment of devices – particularly to students. The first priority will be to distribute to faculty so that devices are available for professional development.*
- *Full-day professional development will occur on August 24th and September 2nd. The September 2nd sessions will be conducted by on-site Apple trainers and the district's technology integrators. It was noted that the new MLTI equipment and applications will provide much greater teacher control in focusing appropriate technology utilization in the classroom.*
- *A sample of the new student devices was displayed and topics related to student take home privileges, the district's self-insurance program, carrying cases, and access to keyboards were features of committee discussion.*

IV. Other/Adjourn:

- *Chair Andrews suggested that consideration of class size or high school scheduling issues be referred to the RSU 13 Policy Committee based upon input and recommendations from the Oceanside High School Leadership team.*
- *The committee members agreed that the next committee meeting will occur at the Herring Gut Learning Center and provide an update on the RSU 13 Mid-Level Alternative Education Program. This meeting will take place on September 26th at 3:30 PM. Neal Guyer will make necessary arrangements and provide travel directions with the September 26th agenda.*
- *The committee will review the district's Response to Intervention (RTI) systems and protocols at a future fall meeting.*

This meeting was adjourned by Chair Andrews at 3:05 PM.