

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee
March 12, 2015

Present: Merrill Adams, Nancy Boyle, Eileen Buckheit, Victor Frederick, Raffaella Fronc

Also present: Linda Berry, Kathryn Veronesi

No public was present

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mrs. Boyle to approve the agenda, second Mrs. Buckheit. The agenda was approved

Discuss the Role of the Committee: Upon discussing the role of the committee, members reaffirmed that our role is to: 1. Examine the benchmarks that indicate achievement in student progress. 2. Discuss perceived weaknesses and the plans to ameliorate them. 3. Support the curricular goals of the superintendent and curriculum coordinator. 4. Support effective professional development for staff. 5. Report our findings to the whole board.

Update on Data Team Progress: The committee discussed the status of data teams in the district. A need exists to focus on data teams on all levels. Much work remains to be done on common assessments and learning the proscribed procedure of well-functioning data teams. Cuginchaug spent data team time working on NEASC; other schools used that time for Common Core planning, but now the focus is changing to data team work. Another problem exists in the elementary schools because there is little time for teachers to work together except beyond the school day. Some creative solutions are being explored to address this dilemma.

Update on recent test scores and comparison in our DRG: Dr. Berry presented graphs showing the results of district sophomores and juniors on the PSAT compared to the state and U.S. mean scores. It was decided that the funds provided in the budget to support all juniors in taking PSATs was well spent.

Update on AP courses at the high school: New AP and UCONN courses for next year at Cuginchaug were discussed. The committee is grateful to the teachers who volunteered to teach these courses, to take the training and classes needed to teach the courses, and in some cases to take on more time consuming preparation for the new courses. We are also grateful to have such highly qualified faculty members.

STEM progress and plans: The committee discussed STEM and the skills and knowledge that are needed in the curriculum to support advancing the STEM curriculum. Some changes are being proposed at Strong to prepare students for acceleration in the high school. The committee would like to see a map of the district STEM curriculum.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 5:45pm on April 22.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Mrs. Boyle to adjourn, second Mrs. Buckheit.