

Regional School District 13  
Student Achievement Committee  
November 4, 2015

Members present: Merrill Adams, Anthony Onofreo, Victor Friedrich  
Also present: Dr. Berry and Dr. Veronesi

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Dr. Onofreo, second Mrs. Adams the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Dr. Friedrich, second Dr. Onofreo, the minutes to the September 2, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Grades 1-4 Technology Course Update:** Mr. Scott Mongillo updated the committee on the technology courses at the elementary level. Third and Fourth grades have a formal typing/keyboarding program called "Typing Club". He discussed the Chromebook use for the 1st and 2nd graders: students know how to log-in on their own in grade 2, in grade 1 they need minimal assistance.

Mr. Mongillo reviewed some of the sample projects from last year including Powtoon, Typing programs, Google docs, blogging, keyboarding and comfort with the SBAC, poster making with younger students, Digital Citizenship, problem-solving, exploration and digital independence, coding, brainstorming and organizing information and technology to connect not isolate.

**Grades K-4 Math Curriculum Writing Update:** A consultant from ACES has helped to give feedback on the process. The district is making very good progress and creating assessments in all areas. Curriculum writing/revision is on-going. Teachers are able to ask questions and offer suggestions for changes because the curriculum documents are on-line. Teachers who are working on this have been working on this during release time; three days since the start of the school year to work with the consultant.

**Professional Development Day: November 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Professional development plans are aligned with district goals; they are connected. Yesterday was dedicated to Google apps for education. 225 staff members certified and non-certified attended. Dr. Berry reviewed the agenda for the day. Yesterday included direct instruction and self-directed learning. The intent of all professional development learning is to have staff apply their new learning to instruction and learning for students. Administrators participated and had a special session on enhancing and streamlining communication.

**Two-year NEASC Report:** Dr. Berry reviewed the flyer with the update of the progress made by CRHS. Dr. Berry reviewed Webb's DOK. The commission will send feedback in the Spring.

Although the span between evaluations is 10 years, the time to work is generally 5 years; it is a cycle of continuous improvement.

**Fall Benchmark Assessments:** Dr. Berry reviewed the Fall Benchmark assessments. The percent represents the number of students who have reached the Fall benchmark which comes from a nationally normed score. Dr. Berry talked about the other data sources that are considered when making decisions about student skill and performance as well as curriculum and instruction.

**STEM Update:** Work has been primarily focused at the grade 7-8 level. There have been other STEM-type activities across the district. Strong Middle School has available physical space that can be used to further develop the program. The committee would like to have further information on this.

**SBAC Interim Assessments:** SBAC gives summative and interim assessments. This will be explored with the administrative team. Dr. Friedrich shared information on a special insert in Sunday's New York Times on education. There was discussion about assessments, purpose, time and accountability.

On a motion by Dr. Friedrich, second Dr. Onofreo, the meeting was adjourned.