

Student Achievement Committee

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Educational Resources Committee met on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Augur, Dr. Friedrich

Committee members absent: Mrs. Boyle

Other Board members present: Mr. Moore, Dr. Taylor

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2017

On a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Director of Curriculum Interview Process

Dr. Veronesi described the interview process for this position. She asked for input from Committee members regarding what they were looking for in a Curriculum Director. Comments included that we are looking for a highly qualified candidate, preferably with extensive experience in curriculum development. The candidate would also have a strong understanding of the assessment process and the importance of relating assessments, both summative and formative, to instructional strategies in the classroom. Furthermore, a person who has experience in communicating student achievement results at the appropriate level of detail for the Board and community is needed. Lastly, we need a strong leader who has the ability to support administrators in developing both broad strategies related to curriculum and instructional strategies in the classroom. In addition, this administrator must be able to provide coaching strategies related to feedback for teachers who will benefit from constructive ideas to strengthen differentiated instruction based on student needs in the classroom.

Three Year Strategic Improvement Plan in Mathematics

Dr. Veronesi reviewed the three year strategic plan for Mathematics improvement plan throughout the district. This extensive plan includes professional development for teachers in the area of mathematics at all grade levels with particular and more immediate focus at elementary levels. The plan includes a review of the math curriculum to identify opportunities across many grade levels. We discussed the importance of increasing the amount of time spent on mathematics in our elementary classrooms and agreed that dedicating at least 1 hour per day to math was a high priority. The next step with regard to the three year strategic plan for math was to collaborate with staff to prioritize action items and developing annual targets for implementation and outcomes.

Next Generation Science Standards

Dr. Veronesi presented a brief description of Next Generation Science Standards and the impact of these standards on curriculum, assessment and instruction. The Curriculum Director and the Director of Professional Development are working on a cohesive approach to the development of a project plan and implementation timeline.

SBAC Update

Dr. Veronesi informed the Committee that the District is prepared for the upcoming SBAC testing. SBAC testing will begin next week at Lyman and Brewster (this is the first time we are conducting SBAC at Brewster) and will be completed during the second week of May. Strong will also begin next week and finish on Friday May 5th. SBAC results are expected to be provided to the district early this summer and will be reviewed, analyzed and summarized for discussion with the Board early next fall.

AP Participation

A brief discussion about AP class participation at CRHS centered around some state level reporting which measures success solely on the percent of students who earn college credits through the program. We acknowledged that one way to boost this metric was to limit participation to only the highest performing students. The Committee recognized that having made the decision to open up AP classes to a broader range of students in order to help prepare a greater number of student for the college experience has not helped the District to “look good” under these metrics. However, we see an increase in participation in our District and continue to believe that the experience is extremely helpful to college bound students regardless of whether they receive the college credit. The committee felt the statewide reporting should include more information about the percentage of students accepted into colleges and then demonstrating success at the college level based on their participation in this rigorous academic experience in high school.

Assessment Update

Dr. Veronesi presented formative assessment updates for STAR ELA, STAR Math and Fountas and Pinnell. The reporting provided was based on input received from prior committee meetings. The challenge for the administrators is that as Board members change, different levels of detail and methods of presentation are requested. It became clear that consistent reporting at the Board level is needed and must be at a level that helps Board members understand how we are progressing and whether the assessments used are measuring the key factors that affect student achievement. After much discussion and a relatively wide range of reporting requests, we asked that our Curriculum and Assessment Director to reach out to other districts to see what assessment and achievement reporting is provided to other Boards in Connecticut and provide a recommended format to the Committee. Clearly, consistent reporting over time is necessary to measure progress. It is important to note that although there was some disagreement among Board members as to the appropriate level of detail, we were able to see opportunities in particular areas such as math at several grade levels as well as progress that has been made at both school and class levels in the area of ELA.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Petrella and seconded by Dr. Taylor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.