

Student Achievement Committee

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Student Achievement Committee met on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Dr. Friedrich (left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.), Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Roraback

Other Board members present: Mr. Moore, Mrs. Geraci (left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.)

Administration Present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Mrs. Michael, Instructional Coach for Science; Mrs. Aronson-Bailey, Instructional Coach for Math and Mrs. Parness, STEAM Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Petrella, and seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the agenda after moving the Mathematics presentation to follow the STEAM presentation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes – September 27, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, and seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of September 27, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously.

Instruction**A. Introductions**

Mrs. DiMaggio introduced Brenda Parness, Melinda Aronson-Bailey, and Susan Michael

B. STEAM – Brenda Parness

Mrs. Parness reviewed what it means to have courses and learning considered STEAM; it is essential that there is an integration of technology with the other areas; science, engineering, art and math. She reviewed the newly created STEAM Camp that is available to students in grades 1-6 and is held on the afternoon of early release days. Mrs. Parness talked about the various learning opportunities in the next STEAM Camp on December 6th including cardboard box architecture, coding, and robotics. The Maker Space programming that is in its first year at Brewster School was reviewed. Mrs. Parness reviewed the STEAM learning that is happening in the pre-school class with the example of building a chair for Goldilocks as little engineers. STEAM activities and learning is tied to literacy at the Pre-K level. STEAM Summer Camp ideas for middle school students were shared including using the programming and staffing from CT STEM Academy. Beginning steps towards community partnerships were reviewed including those with Durham Market and Lyman Orchards. Dr. Taylor asked for a review of a 5 year strategic plan for STEAM from K-12. Mrs. Di Maggio talked about looking at our existing curriculum and how best to create and support STEAM learning and experiences including problem-based learning. Dr. Taylor would like to be sure that the Board understands what is needed to move successfully and strategically into the future. Mr. Moore urged the team to give the Board clear ideas of what is needed in terms of space, materials, and furniture to support authentic student

learning. Mr. Roraback commented that supporting authentic learning is dependent on teachers who have the skill to organize and facilitate student learning and well-designed space.

Dr. Taylor raised the concern about community partnerships that need to be covered and guided by policy and regulations so that our students and schools are not taken advantage of.

C. Mathematics – Melinda Aronson-Bailey

Mrs. Aronson-Bailey presented examples of SBAC mathematics assessment questions. She reviewed through the use of picture examples of mathematics workshop and what teachers and students are doing. The assessment approach in mathematics was reviewed to illustrate how teachers use results of assessments to inform teaching and learning. Mrs. Petrella asked to have the difference between coaches and interventionists defined; interventionists work with students who have been identified as needing additional support and scientifically researched-based interventions are delivered by the teacher. Coaches work with teachers on a variety of tasks including examining curriculum, analyzing data, improving instruction. The interim assessment blocks were reviewed and the purpose was discussed. The complexity and rigor of math discourse and problem-solving was highlighted as a significant change in expectations for students. Teacher discourse that is generated by the results of the IAB has been very useful for teachers and coaches. Fifth graders who had full-day kindergarten and have had the Common Core since they began school are seen to be able to effectively talk about their thinking, can persevere and have a higher threshold for frustration.

Curriculum

A. Curriculum Night

A curriculum night will be held on March 1st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for students and families with a focus on Science, Technology, and Math.

B. NGSS Update

Grades 5, 8, and 11 will take field tests on May 17, 2018 and will take the high stakes test in 2018-2019. Mrs. Michael described the challenges that students will face in taking a high stakes test as they transition into rigorous NGSS knowledge and learning. Mrs. Michael provided a comprehensive review of the "bundles". She indicated that RSD 13 will modify the bundles to that they are in line with RSD 13 learning.

RSD 13 will be hosting a CREC Curriculum Consortium from February through April. Because we are hosting we will be able to have two teachers participate without charge which is a savings of \$1,000. Mrs. Michael described the structure of the bundles and what student learning looks like in any given bundle.

Discussion about how students who receive special education services are supported and learning with the complex material. Mr. Moore commented on the incredible support between our students who play on the Unified Sports team and who played at the Alumni Game on Monday night.

Dr. Veronesi complemented the coaches for the outstanding job they are doing in supporting students and teachers in our district.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Moore, and seconded by Dr. Taylor.