

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Moore, Dr. Friedrich and Mr. Roraback
Administration Present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Mr. Falcone, Principal, Coginchaug Regional High School

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

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

Approval of minutes – November 29, 2017

Dr. Friedrich asked for clarification of a sentence on page 2, under Curriculum which reads, “RSD 13 will be hosting a CREC Curriculum Consortium from February through April.” The sentence will be modified to read, “RSD 13 will be hosting the CREC Curriculum Consortium from February through April.”

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the November 29, 2017 minutes were approved as modified.

Data Dashboard

Cori DiMaggio introduced Ed Lyman to present the Data Dashboard model that he has created and that is in use in school districts around the state. The data can be organized by teacher, grade, school and district. Mr. Lyman reviewed the various prototypes for data entry and reports based on the various assessments that are used. Some of the assessments that are administered need to be manually uploaded while others can be downloaded.

The types of assessments that are included are determined by the administrators and teachers. When making this decision, we will look at our assessment calendar and determine the data points that will be most helpful to us in making decisions. A critical decision must be made regarding the reason we collect data.

Mr. Lyman reviewed various options for sort data that is collected by the teacher level. Mr. Lyman reviewed data by grade level and showed various tables and graphs to depict various data sets. A review of student performance relative to the growth model was highlighted using a chart with colored bands to demonstrate growth over time and percentage of target met over time. Mrs. DiMaggio again stressed the importance of looking at data as a way to examine student performance and student performance over

time so that instructional decisions can be made. Data can also help us examine and make changes to curriculum.

Mr. Taylor asked to have grade level data displayed, voiced concerns about drawing the wrong conclusions about data sets and asked about confidence intervals. Dr. Friedrich asked about the use of scatter grams as a method for displaying comparative data e.g., grades versus performance on standardized measures.

Decisions about data must be made with teachers. It is critically important for principals to be well-versed on understanding data and being able to use it. Principals should be able to work with teachers around the on-going use of data and including it in conversations about students, student performance, and instruction.

Discussion about who should enter data was held including the merits of having assistance for teachers. Mrs. Petrella talked about the benefit of having all data housed in one place. This would be helpful for teachers for grouping, for principals for evaluating teachers.

Mr. Lyman discussed the process that he uses for building the system that our district would use. Much of the information in the Data Dashboard is taken from Power School our student information system. The initial cost for this process is \$5,000 for set-up. Subsequently, the charge is \$500/day. Mrs. DiMaggio looked at other products which were much more costly, in the area of \$30,000. Questions were raised about the server capability and needs. Dr. Friedrich asked about the support we would need if Mr. Lyman were no longer available to support the system. We could build our own front end or find another system.

CRHS Course Changes

Mr. Falcone reviewed the program of studies on the website including the course description. He described the process of looking at interests in various offerings to determine if the course will run. A review of all English classes was described. Mr. Falcone described the difference between AP and UCONN credit courses. Social studies offerings were reviewed. If the UCONN college levels have lower enrollment, they are still offered. Science courses were reviewed; all four courses are not offered each year due to the numbers of students. Mathematics courses were reviewed. Mr. Falcone reviewed the structure of the Learning Lab where students who require Tier 2 instruction are supported. French 1, Spanish 1 and Latin 1 are covered in 7th and 8th grade. Both languages and Latin are offered at the high school. Business education courses were reviewed including the new interdisciplinary course called, "Writing and Marketing for the Big Screen". NEASAC recommended more interdisciplinary courses be offered. In technology education a new course, "Robotics and Coding" will be offered. There will be upfront costs for running this course for the first time. In Family and Consumer Science a new course called, "Blue Devil Cafe" will be offered to create a cafe at the school. Physical education and health will see some changes based upon proposed changes recommended by a physical education teacher. Art and music offerings were reviewed including a proposal for a class called, "Backstage". This course would support students being involved in productions but who do not want to be or are afraid to be "on-stage". Mr. Falcone reviewed the courses that will not be offered next year. Due to high school graduation requirements, students are not able to take some of the electives that they might want to.

Mr. Falcone reviewed the proposal for the “Senior Field Experience,” including:

- Exploring Teaching and Learning
- Emerging Business Leaders
- Making A Difference Through Community Outreach
- Campus Unification
- Athletic Leadership
- Career Exploration

These classes would be pass/fail. Community service requirements are 7 hours for juniors and 7 hours for seniors. Mr. Falcone would like to see a community service component throughout the high school experience.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mrs. Petrella and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.