

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Student Achievement Committee met remotely via Google Hangout on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Committee members present: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Caramanello,

Other board members present:

Administration present: Dr. Serino, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, and Mr. Falcone, Principal at CRHS

Community members present: Ms. Commins

Student members present: Thomas Peters

Mrs. Petrella called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, second by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as presented

In favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Caramanello.

Approval of Minutes - February 25, 2020

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of February 25, 2020, as presented: Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Caramanello.

Review Phase I At-Home Distance Learning

Mrs. DiMaggio started off by thanking everyone for an amazing job - IT department, administrators, coaches, interventionists, teachers, tutors, paraprofessionals, parents, and students.

Mrs. DiMaggio shared her presentation-

“We have been careful in our planning and deliberate in our approach.”

Transition to Distance Learning from Supplemental Learning

Link to Presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w_vyb-a4hkRZdNbzaPXmDM2ILttw2Pi3/view?usp=sharing

Developed and organized consistent learning teacher expectations and student/parent expectations across the board per grade level.

Consistent teaching and learning template - identify learning targets, mini lesson, independent learning, and exit tickets (assessment). Folders are kept in shared Google Drive - for tutors, paraprofessionals, and special education staff to access.

The professional learning plan was developed with the technology team and coaches to assist teachers moving forward with technology use and a consistent instructional approach.

Special Education teachers and intervention teachers are offering support to their students in either a one-on-one or in a small group setting using Google Hangouts.

A shared schedule was developed for teachers/administrators across the district along with a “divide and conquer” approach for grades K-6 teachers. Teachers are assigned to plan for a particular grade level content area (math, reading, etc.) which is shared with their grade level colleagues. Sue Michael to help out with Science.

Ken Pietrasko and the IT department have done a great job in assisting with the At-Home Learning page. Dr. Friedrich commented on the pop up section when you first click on the RSD 13 website He stated that it is a great feature, but hard to find if you click on dismiss.

Chromebooks have been distributed to many students in the district. Emails have been sent to parents if they need a district device. The last Chromebook handout, pickup numbers were low. Chromebooks are currently out of stock. We do not have enough one on one Chromebooks to support the district. Many families are also using their own devices. Some families have also opted out of distance learning.

Communication to parents/guardians is sent by Dr. Serino on Wednesday, Mrs. DiMaggio on Thursdays and on Fridays by the building principals through ParentSquare.

Review Phase II At-Home Distance Learning

Developed Parent, Teacher/Staff and Student Survey

Mrs. DiMaggio discussed the next phase of distance learning. The surveys were reviewed by the administration. Live connections with students and the need for teachers’ instructional videos identified as the next steps for implementation. With that, Google Hangout will be gradually released for grades K-12. Middle school math teachers along AP and math high school teachers were trained by the tech team and piloted Hangouts with students during last week and Monday of this week. The remainder of middle and high school teachers will receive training this week and will also implement “office hours” with students using Google Hangout. Additionally, elementary teachers, tutors, and paraprofessionals are receiving training using Google Hangout. The “Week At A Glance” document has been instituted for grades K-6 students/parents.

Mrs. Booth stated that the “Week At A Glance” document has been very helpful and she likes it. She would like Mrs. DiMaggio to explain in her next parent letter why the district will not be participating in live learning. People in the district have questioned her on this matter.

Mrs. DiMaggio explained that we have moved to “live connections” and are not introducing new learning due to equity and access for all students. She agreed to explain this in her next communication.

Parent Survey Results

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cB9GjdtYrFsZaoZHpOkkPQNNAE6G6wpc/view?usp=sharing>

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed the results of the parent survey. The majority of the results were favorable responses. We will continue with a 5 day learning week instead of 4 days. The parents would like to see more live instructional videos for their children.

Mrs. Petrella stated she would like to see more of the parent comments by grade level. Due to some teachers’ names mentioned in the survey, Mrs. DiMaggio summarized the survey results for the committee. As stated previously, the parents commented on how thankful and grateful they were. Ed Lyman was contacted to separate the survey results into grade levels. The results were then shared with the principals and discussed with their staff members.

Ms. Commins inquired about the percentage of parents who took the survey per school. Cori read each percentage of participation per school.

Dr. Friedrich stated how fantastic it is to have parents buy into the distance learning and accept what we are implementing. He was concerned about the technology issues and hopes that they have been addressed. Our IT technology team is working with parents and troubleshooting issues. Mrs. DiMaggio stated she will be sending out another parent survey in about 2 weeks.

Dr. Friedrich asked what will the future of learning look like and how we would grade ourselves. Mrs. DiMaggio stated that we are doing well. Moving forward either teaching in a building or online learning will need to change. We need to be creative with our thinking in moving forward. What will our new “normal” be?

Mrs. Booth stated how it has been difficult for her and other parents to learn the different platforms such as Google, Seesaw, and Flipgrid. She went on YouTube to learn how to use them. Mrs. DiMaggio stated that information is also on our Website under At-Home Learning and that the technology team is working on online professional learning sessions for parents. Mrs. Booth stated that she thought it would be more helpful if teachers gave more directions for the students. She did note that everyday things seem to be getting better. Mrs. DiMaggio stated the coaches are working with teachers on making it easier for students/parents when they assign lessons using less clicks.

Mr. Roraback added that live learning is huge and we should be quick to roll this out. He was not in favor of long drawn out assignments. He wants teachers to talk to each other so that everything is not due on the same day. In regards to the Google Classroom, he would like to see a consistency on how it is set up and to keep it simple.

In conclusion, Mrs. Petrella was pleased with the survey results. The survey was sent out two weeks after the At-Home Distance Learning began. Dr. Serino stated that the launch went well, but there are other factors to consider. Parents are more open and positive to these changes, family stress

factors at home, and the novelty with at home learning. The duration of this might lead to other problems as we head towards the end of the school year.

Bright Spots from Teacher Survey Results

Mrs. DiMaggio shared some of the teacher survey results on their bright spots. She stated how wonderful and dedicated the teachers have been. Their commitment, willingness and dedication to their students and their colleagues has been remarkable. Please see the presentation link for quoted responses from a few teachers.

Grading for remainder of year

Link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eODcApA3FQHJhMvyxKDcBF7z18zNI_5l/view?usp=sharing

Grading Procedures for the Final Marking Period
Review from Miguel Cardona from the State of Connecticut

Mr. Falcone discussed how the 4th quarter will be graded at the high school. He kept in mind graduation requirements, transcripts, and GPA. There will be no honor roll in this quarter. After review with administrators, teachers and students, Mr. Falcone noted the following for yearlong courses: Quarters 1 and 2 will count for 30% of final grade, Midterm 10%, 3rd quarter 20% and 4th quarter 10% of final grade calculation. No final exam. For semester long courses: Quarter 3 70% and Quarter 4 30% of the final grade calculation. No final exam.

Numeric Value on each course will be adjusted to Pass with distinction, Pass, Fail, Incomplete. This should help relieve the amount of stress for the students.

SAT's are optional for students. If you wish to take the SAT's, they will be offered every month for free starting in October.

Mrs. DiMaggio discussed Strong and Memorial Grade 6 grading procedures. All assignments in the fourth quarter that would have been graded will now be placed into three categories: Meets Expectations (ME), Progressing Towards (PT) and Not Submitted (NS). Teachers will continue to provide feedback. Grades will not be calculated at this time. There will be no honor roll in the fourth quarter.

Grading at the elementary schools (Brewster, Lyman and Memorial) K-5, Mrs. DiMaggio explained that each grade level will summarize the curricular content targets and skills since the beginning of March. Teachers will provide parents with a personal narrative to discuss their child's progress throughout the school year. Teachers will also provide feedback to students during this process.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Caramanello.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Smith

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment