

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Student Achievement Committee met in special session on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:00 PM remotely.

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

Committee members absent: None

Community members present: Bronwyn Commins

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Mr. Falcone, Principal of CRHS, Mrs. Melillo, Dean of Academic and Student Services at CRHS and Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education

Mrs. Petrella called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Booth made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

Approval of Minutes - March 17, 2021

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented: Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Caramanello, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor.

Summer Updates

Mrs. DiMaggio reported that summer school numbers are at 64 to 65 as of now, with a goal of 96 students. They have sent out a second round of letters to parents. There are currently 36 students who need transportation which will be offered this year because of the grant. They are in the process of developing the Kindergarten Prep Academy which will run from August 9 to August 12 for all incoming kindergartners. Joanna Schmidt and Melody Lee will be the facilitators of the Kindergarten Academy. Noelle Durkin and Phil Moriarty will be the facilitators for the K-5 program.

The Kindergarten Prep Academy will include two sessions, one from 9:00 to 11:00 and the other from 12:00 to 2:00. The goal is to have at least 60 students in the program. They will work on social skills, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, learning how to write their name, following directions, etc.

Five camps will be held this summer, each with 15 spots available. The math and coding camp currently will be run by Melinda Aronson and Jenny Lussier and has 10 spots filled. The mixed media art camp will be run by Pam Longley and it is already full. The STEAM camp has 13 spots filled. The nature explorers camp will be run by Amy Sorenson and it is full. The ceramics camp will be run by Carrie Howes and that is also full. All the camps will run throughout the month of July.

Ryan Bothamley will be running an independent art studio from June 21 to June 25. Melody Lee will also run Chinese Language and Culture Exploration from June 21 to June 29. Both of these independent project programs are for high school students.

There are also tutoring sessions available that are funded with the grant money. There are a total of 78 students throughout all of the schools who are being tutored.

Grant Opportunity

Mrs. DiMaggio reported that they had written a TeachRock Grant which was launched by Little Steven Van Zandt from the E Street Band to integrate music with content areas. Unfortunately, the district was not accepted, but does have access to some of the materials.

Drafts of Professional Learning Plans

Mrs. DiMaggio will forward the drafts to the committee members. She reviewed that the first professional development day will be on August 31st. They also have professional development scheduled for September 27th and November 2nd with two early release days on January 27th and February 18th. March 11th will be a full day of PD and May 17th is an early release day.

For elementary, the principals will review data trends from this year and the coaches will work with each grade level to develop goals based on that data. They will also look at what literacy looks like for the 2021-2022 school year and review the reading block. They will look at the system for tracking intervention groups, review the SRBI with the teachers and review the data dashboard. They will also look at the assessment calendar. The related arts teams in K-12 and 6-12 will have meetings and a Dibbles training will be held on the assessment tool.

The district will be looking at science of reading and structured literacy. Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed that there are items within the reading curriculum that are missing. Kristen Allen is doing a training in June with the K-2 teachers. There are 10-12 teachers from the district who have volunteered to be part of this training and East Hampton teachers will attend as well. Mrs. DiMaggio has hired a consultant to come in during the week of September 13th to work with the teachers regarding differentiation and how to apply it in a classroom. The consultant will work with the coaches and then come back to work alongside the coaches and teachers as well. Library media specialists will also have a consultant work with them during that week as well.

In October, there will be a consultant coming in to work with coaches and rotate through the PLCs to cover instructional strategies in differentiation and that will happen again in November as well. Mrs. DiMaggio summarized that the focus next year in elementary will be differentiation and reading. The match coaches will attend as well, but reading will be the major focus.

IAPs (individualized action plans) will also be developed for teachers to personalize their learning for March 11th. Mrs. DiMaggio encouraged the committee members to reach out to her once they receive the drafts with any questions.

For the middle school, Mr. Sadinsky will hold data discussions with the staff. They hope to have individual student reports sometime during the summer. They are considering doing restorative practices training again in the middle school. A consultant from CES who has been amazing with technology will continue work with the science, math and social studies departments. There is also a math consultant that the district uses, both at the high school and the middle school. She will work to perfect the performance tasks at the middle school.

Equity training will be provided at the middle school level that will be similar to the high school. A focus group with students will be held at the beginning of the year and then the consultant from SERC will work with the teachers. The high school will also continue that training with both the social studies and ELA departments.

The high school will continue with curriculum writing. Equity training will continue, as mentioned, and they will also have additional training in math.

Mrs. DiMaggio summarized that the professional development days will be flexible and fluid, allowing for adjustments to be made. Mr. Roraback asked if the district is continuing their relationship with Joanna Sartori and Mrs. DiMaggio explained that they are trying to make the teachers a bit more independent with this work and they have developed SLC ambassadors who have been intensively trained. These groups have developed individualized plans for their schools. Every school has been exposed to this training except for the high school. Mrs. DiMaggio would like to see how this training will benefit the children and translate through to the classroom. Mrs. DiMaggio felt that the high school needs to move more towards restorative practices and she has been talking with the teachers there. Ms. Sartori will work with some of the ambassadors next year, but not throughout the whole year.

Dr. Friedrich thought that some of this data will need to go back to the community. He understood that personalized learning is important to educators, but, as salespeople for the program, some of the data is very important and the community needs to see that they are getting a lot for their money. Dr. Friedrich did explain that as much as he hates it, it will be important for the community to see the results. Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed that pre-COVID, the district was on the move upward and she is curious to see how in-person learners performed vs. remote learners though she is not sure it will be a good indicator as so much happened this year. Dr. Friedrich felt that there would be a lot more spread between in scores than in previous years, especially with the motivational issue.

Mrs. Booth asked if there was a reason that iReady assessment is being done right after the SBAC at the elementary level. Mrs. DiMaggio had hoped to be able to present those scores to the committee and that's why she planned it that way. Mrs. Booth felt it would be better to space it out and noted that her daughter is super-overwhelmed. Mrs. DiMaggio agreed and they will look at how to space it out. Mrs. Booth also stated that her fourth grader started Foundations in first or second grade and her sixth grader never had it. She already sees a difference in their vocabulary and feels that program is quite successful.

Mrs. Petrella agreed with Dr. Friedrich about getting the information out to the community. She felt that the district may, in fact, have done very well during COVID because they started things sooner and had a very well-structured program in place. Mrs. DiMaggio also noted that the greatest number of remote students were seniors and they did, in fact, miss out on a lot of the social aspects.

Mrs. DiMaggio added that this committee does not typically meet in June, but they can if necessary. Mr. Moore felt that they would only have to meet if something comes up. Mrs. DiMaggio added that she will attend the June 9th board meeting as well.

Public Comment

Leslie Paoletti asked about using the data in terms of student achievement and how the data gets recycled back into instruction and how quickly that happens. She asked if there would be any summer intervention programs and if the students will get the opportunity to see their own data. She also asked if the teachers for next year will see the data in order to plan for their incoming students. She felt that there should be a targeted, accelerated plan to engage the students individually as well as letting their parents and teachers know.

Mrs. DiMaggio explained that the data is shared with all of the teachers throughout the year. The instructional coaches also work closely with the teachers. Many of the decisions made regarding instruction revolve around the data and summer school this year will also look at the students' data. The students will be placed into skill-based groups this summer and a full review of the data will be done again at the beginning of next year. Parents will receive individualized reports from the state as they come in through Smarter Balance as well as report cards and parent-teacher conferences.

Mrs. Paoletti felt that data should be available as much as possible, as fast as possible and at the micro level and not just a ranking or a percentile. She believes this will help pinpoint where the holes are, particularly during the challenging environment. Mrs. DiMaggio explained that that has been done right along and is also available on the data dashboard.

Mr. Roraback added that he appreciates being able to see the honor roll status.

Adjournment

Mr. Roraback made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Booth, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First