

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2014

Committee Members Present	:	S. Carleton, G. Emery, C. Bachofner, D. Robishaw, S. Roberts
Other Board Members Present	:	L. Andrews
Staff Members Present	:	N. Guyer, K. Harrison, B. Heidemann
Others Present	:	none
Location	:	McLain Building - Rockland

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton at 5:25 PM.

II. Updates Regarding the RSU 13 Proficiency Based Learning Initiative – N. Guyer:

It was noted that the RSU 13 Proficiency Based Steering Committee (PBSC) had met earlier in the day (12-18-14) for a full-day work session at the McLain Building in Rockland. This work session focused upon advancing the proficiency based work plan within the following aspects:

- Professional development training modules have been developed that can be accomplished within a 40 minute timeframe. These are being designed and piloted specifically to be accomplished during faculty common planning times and are intended to engage faculty in reading and reflecting upon research-based information concerning professional practice that supports proficiency based learning. Curriculum Committee members received materials and agreed to participate in one of these modules at the January 22nd meeting as an opportunity for joint learning.*
- The PBSC continues to review feedback from various software/program formats that are being piloted this year to support proficiency based practice, record keeping, grading, and reporting - and will work towards advancing a firm proposal for the future to coincide with budget planning for FY 16.*
- THE PBSC reviewed staff survey/feedback data on the six professional development initiatives that have been approved for this year. The analysis of this data assist in determining the types and quality of initiatives that have been verified as being more highly valued and applicable in supporting the over-all work plan. This in turns provides guidance for future professional development expenditures.*
- Sub-committee work was reviewed pertinent to policy issues that need to be addressed. Currently these policies include the graduation requirement, student eligibility, and dual enrollment/post-secondary course participation policies. It is hoped that needed revisions for the Graduation Policy IKF can be considered in 1st reading at the January Board meeting.*
- Sub-committees were identified for specific work projects related to policy development, proficiency-based grading, and reporting.*

- *Strategies were discussed for community events and other venues for sharing and expanding learning opportunities regarding proficiency based learning.*

The PBSC will convene again for a work session in mid to late January.

III. On-Going Professional Development - N. Guyer:

Neal Guyer reviewed and the committee discussed the professional development activities highlighted in the RSU 13 Staff News & Notes that was distributed for December 2014. A copy of that newsletter accompanies these minutes.

IV. Other/Adjourn:

Chair Carleton noted an inquiry from the RSU 13 Policy Committee regarding the status of needed policy revisions to support anticipated Gifted and Talented Program changes. It was agreed that this discussion should be put 'on hold' until program parameters are more fully known. Committee members are asked to review the minutes of the January 25, 2014 Curriculum Committee meeting in advanced of the January 22nd meeting.

This meeting was adjourned by the Curriculum Committee Chair, S. Carleton at 6:26 PM.



RSU 13 Staff News & Notes
John McDonald & Neal Guyer
December 2014

We're quickly closing in on our school vacation time for the seasonal holidays. As the school holiday traditions unfold, it's hard to believe that the end of the first quarter for grades 8-12 was now six weeks ago, and the end of the first trimester for grades K-7 is now three weeks behind us. So, we're well on our way to the mid-point of the year and the familiar routines of basketball season, budget planning for FY 16, keeping an eye on the weather (hoping to keep snow days to a minimum), and eventually mud season – will all soon be upon us.

The arrival of December 21st will mark the shortest length of daylight for the year, and as the days begin to lengthen beyond that and as we all capture some well-deserved 'down time' over the holiday recess, we'll also be taking stock of progress to date and gearing up to make the most of an exciting new year.

With each new year comes unique challenges and opportunities and we wish you all to know how appreciative we are of the conscientious energy and enthusiasm of RSU 13 staff members who greet each school day and each student like they really matter – because they do!

Wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year.

Now for a few updates:

1. RSU 13 is pleased to announce that the district is teaming up with local Tilbury House Publishers and children's book author Margy Burns Knight to offer a 'dine and discuss' professional development opportunity on January 27th. This event will take place at the Highlands Café on Main Street in Thomaston, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The theme for this session will be utilizing the recently republished book *Talking Walls: Discover Your World* as a workshop platform for "Unpacking Informational Texts, One Sentence at a Time". This will be a unique opportunity to engage with teaching colleagues from the mid-coast by participating in the author's presentation, learning more about standards applications within informational texts, and receiving materials to support instruction. Participants will also receive a certificate for two professional development contact hours.

RSU 13 will sponsor 20 slots for teachers on a first-come-first-serve basis, free of charge. Teachers wishing to register should contact Kathy Blais at the Superintendent's Office by January 16th. If the RSU 13 slots become fully enrolled, then RSU 13 employees may access this event for a discounted rate of \$15.00 – personal expense. Registration will include educational handouts and a light meal (choice of soup or salad & sandwich). No beverage is included with registration, but a variety will be available for order at attendees' cost. *Talking Walls: Discover Your World* will also be available for purchase at a discounted rate for attendees.

To learn more about Margy Burns Knight and *Talking Walls: Discover Your World*, please visit the following website:

www.margyburnsknight.com

2. As school principals have undoubtedly shared, the RSU will only be conducting one district-wide, practice writing assessment for this school year. The reason for this is that upon the recommendation of our K-7 ELA Team, the district will be transitioning to utilizing the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) writing rubrics – replacing and supplementing the K-7 rubrics that have been in use over the past few years. This also dovetails efforts taking place in grades 8-12. Due to the plethora of initiatives and activities that have been on everyone's plate since the beginning of this year, our original intent to calibrate and score with these rubrics on February 13th has been modified. Instead, we will be doing introductory work with these K-7 rubrics in February and more direct calibration and training in March. More detailed information will be forthcoming.
3. As has been noted in a previous newsletter, AIMSweb is a K-8 benchmarking and progress monitoring tool that RSU 13 has recently purchased. The 2.0 version functions on a web-based format, and is intended to support student screening and RTI functions in literacy and math. A team of our teachers received orientation and training in September, and again

most recently on December 5th. Our intent has been to move cautiously with AIMSweb due to some persistent technical challenges that are evident within the 2.0 version. These glitches are slowly being resolved, and as the full potential of this tool is realized, it will dramatically enhance, and eventually replace, procedures now in place for RTI Tier I level intervention planning and progress monitoring. The process for implementing AIMSweb, in a step-by-step fashion, will begin for grades K-5 following our return to school in January. The following sequence is envisioned:

- Benchmarking in literacy and math will begin to occur the week of January 5th.
- Needed printed materials/grade-level binders and administration directions are being produced by the Central Office and will be available in all schools on January 5th.
- Principals will coordinate screening/benchmarking schedules within their schools.
- Benchmarking activities will be supported by having 'floating substitutes' available, and Title IA faculty will directly assist in benchmarking. Title IA staff will receive direct training on Dec. 19th.
- While Title IA faculty will assist and support, it is important that all K-5 teachers directly experience benchmarking with some of their students.
- Classroom teachers will hold their benchmarking data until January 16th.
- On January 16th (early release day) K-5 school-based meetings will be held to assist all faculty in entering benchmark data gathered to date into AIMSweb class rosters. RDMS and TGS 5th grade teachers will attend a 5th grade session to be held at the Owls Head Central School.
- Additional details regarding meeting plans for January 16th will be shared during the week of January 5th.

So, our initial foray with AIMSweb will simply be to collect the benchmarking data and enter it into the system for grades K-5. From there will be planning additional training sessions for grades 6-8, and follow-on CPT sessions on utilizing the data, once entered, for planning and progress monitoring.

Many, many thanks to our team of teachers who have muscled through the initial challenges of AIMSweb 2.0 and now stand ready to assist their colleagues!

4. On January 16th grades 6, 7, and 8 will be involved in work together related to the Proficiency-Based Learning work plan. Teachers will meet to discuss their move towards a Proficiency-Based Education system. They will continue their work from October 10th and work in grades by content areas. With their teammates they will discuss the performance indicators for a graduation standard and identify what the expectations are for a student leaving their grade for that graduation standard. They will identify the units or moments in the year that they are teaching and assessing the performance indicators with formative and summative assessments. They will also have time to work with their vertical content team to articulate how a student will meet a graduation standard in their middle school career. Their next step is to define the criteria assessed on the formative and summative assessments and create rubrics. Graduation Standards being worked on will include:

Math-Geometry	Science-Physical Science(s)
ELA-Writing Research	VPA-Aesthetics and Criticism
SS-History	HPE-Movement/Motor Skills and Knowledge

Details regarding grade 6-8 work schedules and locations for the afternoon of January 16th will be shared during the first week of January.

5. Also on January 16th, professional development efforts for Oceanside High School will focus upon work within departments – continuing to align curriculum and assessments—with PBE in the forefront. Details regarding 9-12 work schedules and locations will be shared during the first week of January.
6. We are pleased to announce that RSU 13 has been chosen to participate in a federally funded, collaborative grant that will support preschool services in the Mid Coast region beginning in 2015-2016. The partnership supporting these services will involve RSU 13, Child Development Services, Broadreach, and Head Start. RSU 13 will establish and administer three preschool classrooms in the first year of inception of the grant, with the addition of one classroom per year for the duration of the grant. We will update RSU staff regularly as the specific details of preschool programming are confirmed. This is an exciting step for RSU 13 and the MidCoast region!

Make yourself a great holiday time and as always - thanks to all for your continuing good work on behalf of RSU 13 students!