

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2018

Committee Members Present : L. Andrews, C. Bachofner
Other Board Members Present :
Staff Members Present : J. McDonald, S. Tribou, J. Onorato, M. Karam
Location : McLain Building, Rockland

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Loren Andrews at 3:34 PM.

II. Curriculum and Technology:

Last Thursday, Bruce took a technology integrator to Thornton Academy to see an Apple integrated school. Bruce came away from the visit with some strategies that we might apply to the district.

Bruce was impressed by how relaxed the culture was around the use of technology. Technology was not “shutdown” or “restricted,” and in response it was not creating any type of an adversarial atmosphere around technology. There was a dance class in which moves were recorded and critiqued. Teachers airdropped documents to students. Students seemed to have an understanding of the expectations and the right time to use their technology. The culture was impressive. iPads were handed out on day one and iPads were collected on the last day of school.

Expectations of teachers at Thornton Academy include an online website presence as well as having all teachers establish 5 goals. Their last day of school is a workshop day, and so long as teachers could show 6 hours of technology professional development, teachers could have that last day as a comp day. There was also a room in the high school dedicated to technology development in which teachers can plan and share ideas together. Teachers are also paid (in the summer) to establish digital content.

Bruce has asked his staff to come up with a way to hold off on collecting iPads until after the finals at the HS and on the last days of school versus a few weeks prior to the end of school. In speaking to students seeing this as a worthwhile tool, Bruce is considering the pros and cons of offering the App Store once again to students so that students begin seeing more value in the tool (which would in turn encourage students to keep them charged and bring them in)....this would be at the middle and high school level. This might help to eliminate some of the adversarial attitude toward the devices from the students. We need the device in the schools and charged and valued by students.

As an important aspect of students valuing these devices, we need to build teacher capacity in using the device for educational purposes (i.e. to make lessons engaging, to make use of digital content). There is an understanding that the culture issue is two-fold: building technology support and capacity for teachers, as well as for engaging students in the educational value of the tool.

We need to revisit this issue; Bruce will look into providing some additional data so that the Board can provide some educated feedback.

III. District direction in terms of Proficiency Based Education and the Proficiency Based Diploma discussions at the state level:

No major updates at this point. The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee will meet this week, and Steffany will continue to provide updates. The district will continue to move forward with proficiency based education, which is a sound approach to instruction.

IV. Social Emotional Learning approaches at South School and Restorative Practices preliminary planning:

Josh shared an overview of some of the SEL approaches at South School. These include Responsive Classroom, Second Step, Restorative Practices, School Based Counseling, Guidance Services, such as social groups, lunch groups, Big Brother/Big Sisters, incorporating Mindfulness practices, ACES, and forming an Anti-Bullying Task Force.

Second Step contains skills units such as empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. There are also anti-bullying components to the program. The program includes units that contain lesson cards. Each lesson card contains instructions and plans on the back to guide the teacher. Teachers do not leave the classroom while Mrs. Karam provides a lesson. Program is set up to be once a week, but South School is currently implementing it every other week through guidance, and teachers can do a follow up lesson during the "off week." Mrs. Karam will continue to offer the program every other week next year. Mrs. Karam and Mr. Onorato mentioned that students are becoming more comfortable and open.

V. Clarification around the idea of multiple pathways for students:

We did not get to this agenda item and will revisit it at our next meeting.

VI. Other/Adjourn:

The committee will meet again on Monday April 23rd at 3:30. Agenda items to include:

**Budget review????*

**The purpose of Homework versus flipped classroom models*

**Revisit opening the app store*

**View a sample of the District Report Card and School Based Report Cards??*

Chair Andrews adjourned this meeting at 4:43pm.