

Membership Present:

L. Berger, G. Emery, T. Forti, K. Gamage, M. Gee, R. N. Guyer, D. Johanson, J. Kalloch, M.A. McLean, L. Schooley, C. Kesselheim (GSP Consultant was present for this meeting).

The outcomes for this meeting included the following:

Summary of Meeting Outcomes:

1. This meeting began with a review of the agenda and discussion of communication received to date. Two recent emails were received, one on Sept. 29th and one on Oct. 1st. Both communications were forwarded to all TAG members when received and have also been posted on the website. Members discussed and contemplated the role of TAG in responding to emails and/or specific questions raised, and determined that communications would continue to be acknowledged through the review process, but detailed responses would not be possible. Further, working groups that are pursuing the various work plan benchmarks will be encouraged to also monitor and review communications for elements that might be useful in informing their work.
2. In Superintendent Lucarelli's absence, Neal Guyer led a review and discussion of the benchmarks contained within Phase II of the Continuing Work Plan. Each benchmark was considered, and TAG group members offered questions and suggestions for altering timelines, clarifying those responsible for actions, or modifying intended procedures. Benchmarks that were highlighted in this review included:
 - 2B & 2E – Faculty preference survey. Surveys were distributed Sept. 30th and are due back to school principals Oct. 8th. TAG faculty and administrative participants noted that further clarification should occur regarding the implications of the tentative assignments that will become known in mid-November, and what further process steps and considerations may be anticipated before final determinations are made. It is recommended that having this information will be helpful in easing some of the anxiety that is understandably created as this important benchmark work moves forward.
 - 2C – Grading, scheduling, & handbook working groups. Both principals Forti and Schooley recommended that a 'working group' be maintained for developing unified grading, but that scheduling and handbook formulation be tasks that are more efficiently handled administratively. TAG members agreed, and this benchmark will be reformulated in the October update.
 - 2G – Joint departmental meetings. Principals Schooley and Forti are in the process of organizing half-day work sessions that will be supported by bringing in substitute coverage so that these work sessions can occur during regular working hours. Faculty have indicated that they prefer face-to-face work sessions, and that half-day segments are the most productive. A schedule of anticipated work sessions will be reviewed at the November TAG meeting. It was also noted that work sessions will focus on program of studies and unified grading efforts, and will include mid-level faculty as appropriate.
 - 2K – NEASC Steering Committee. Principal Forti reviewed the likely sequence as the accreditation process moves forward and recommended that the formal work of the steering committee will more realistically begin after the first of the year. This benchmark will be moved to early January within Phase III of the work plan. The anticipated steering committee will be comprised of RDHS, GVHS, and mid-level faculty representatives as the accreditation effort will focus on the 8-12 program.

- 2L – Student Activities Advisory Group. As with benchmark 2C, principals Schooley and Forti recommend not forming another working group for this purpose. They both noted that appropriate planning and responses to these concerns are very appropriately coming forth generically via joint student government meetings, co-curricular and athletic collaborations, and other social activities that are arising naturally within the day-to-day operations at the schools. TAG members agreed that this benchmark will be amended to eliminate the expectation that a separate working group be formed, and instead plan for a monthly update on progress within this important area.

These considerations and amendments will be noted in the Continuing Work Plan for October, and an updated work plan document will be posted on the TAG website during the week of October 18th.

3. Craig Kesselhiem proposed and solicited input regarding the areas of inquiry that TAG will consider in developing an on-going program evaluation plan. It is intended that this plan be designed to not only monitor benchmark progress steps for program development, but also to identify the criteria upon which success will be defined over time. The areas of inquiry were articulated within the following longer-range goals:
 - a. To realize a graduation rate that equals or exceeds 90%.
 - b. School programs provide an equitable range of courses and extra-curricular opportunities for all students.
 - c. All students are prepared to be successful in post secondary educational options.
 - d. Improved learning outcomes for all students.
 - e. Acceptance and 'ownership' of the 8-12 school model as 'our school' within the community (inclusive of students, faculty, parents, and others).

TAG members present broke into working groups to pursue more in-depth discussions regarding goal statements a, b, & c, and consider what data and indicators need to be tracked and quantified over time to measure progress within these goal areas. The results of these initial discussions will be organized into a continuing work template that will be distributed with the November meeting agenda. Work to further develop an on-going program evaluation plan (benchmark 2F) will continue at that meeting.

4. The TAG membership confirmed that the next meeting will occur on Monday, November 1, 2010. This meeting will take place at the Superintendent's Office, conference room, 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

This meeting was adjourned by Neal Guyer at 5:00 PM.