

Membership Present:

L. Berger, G. Emery, T. Forti, K. Gamage, M. Gee, R. Gilson, N. Guyer, D. Johanson, J. Kalloch, J. Lucarelli, L. Schooley.

The outcomes for this meeting included the following:

Summary of Meeting Outcomes:

1. This meeting began with a review of the agenda and it was noted that no new communications had been received since the last TAG meeting in October. In terms of general updates and sharing, principals Forti and Schooley provided a brief update on a joint student government session being planned for the first week of November. This session will include students from both RDHS & GVHS, and will be held at RDHS.

2. Superintendent Lucarelli 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:
 - 2A – Joint faculty meetings. This benchmark is continuing to progress as intended. Faculty representing the four core content areas met on Oct. 20th & 22nd to continue working on the developmental sequence of courses within the program of studies inclusive of interventions and electives that will be proposed. This work occurred in half-day sessions with rotating substitute coverage. This same work model will be utilized on Nov. 16th to support program of studies work for world languages and continuing work within ELA. Allied arts faculty has requested to meet after school hours on Nov. 4th with their work supported by payment for work beyond the contract.

 - 2B & 2E – Faculty preference survey. Superintendent Lucarelli reported that all surveys that were returned have been collated and that an initial analysis indicates that by in large the district will be able to honor the majority of faculty assignment preferences. In any instance where this is not the case, it was recommended by TAG members that administrative meetings with individuals precede the issuing of tentative assignments later in Nov. TAG membership also recommended that it continue to be stressed that tentative assignments will be made at this time for planning purposes and that final assignments are contingent (as they typically are) on the outcome of the budget process and final staffing decisions that will occur in the spring of 2011.

 - 2M – Counselors advisory groups. Neal Guyer reported that the work begun by this group on Sept. 24th is continuing - focusing on the pragmatics of unifying two guidance offices, identifying roles and responsibilities that will need to be highlighted within this new configuration, matching those roles and responsibilities to possible alternative guidance models, and strategies for strengthening post secondary transitions. A special meeting was held on Oct. 27th in consultation with the Great Schools Partnership to link the counselors group to additional informational resources and possible guidance models to consider that presently exist within Maine schools. Counselors will join visiting teams to other schools when appropriate to learn more about alternative organizational models. The next step for the counselors group is to identify the 'premier issues' that need to be resolved in preparation for Sept. 2011. These will be reviewed at the December TAG meeting.

These considerations and amendments, along with other benchmark progress notes, will be included in the Continuing Work Plan updates for November. This updated work plan document will be posted on the TAG website during the week of November 22nd.

3. Principals Forti and Schooley explained that faculty teams are being organized to visit schools in Maine that are working towards, or have accomplished program elements that are envisioned for the 8-12 configuration. These visitations will be well structured and purposeful – intending to advance professional development themes related to de-tracking, unified grading, effective intervention/remediation strategies, and innovative programs of study. A visiting team consisting of both RDHS & GVHS faculty will visit Searsport High School on Nov. 15th. Additional visitations to Mount Desert Island & Noble high schools will occur prior to the December school vacation. Possible subsequent visits will be planned for Kennebunk, Poland, and Casco Bay high schools. Principals Schooley and Forti will update TAG members on accomplished and remaining planned visitations at the December meeting.
4. The TAG membership continued its work in formulating a longer-term evaluation plan to track progress and assess outcomes as the 8-12 configuration is implemented. In the initial phase of this work, guiding or ‘researchable’ questions have been matched to five central goal statements. In this work session, TAG members present broke into working groups to pursue more in-depth discussions and identify guiding questions for the following two goal statements:

Goal D – We will improve learning outcomes for all students.

Goal E - We will achieve acceptance and ‘ownership’ of the 8-12 school model within the community, inclusive of students, faculty, parents, and others.

The results of these initial discussions will be organized into a continuing work template that will be distributed with the December meeting agenda. Work to further develop an on-going program evaluation plan (benchmark 2F) will continue at that meeting.

5. The TAG membership confirmed that the next meeting will occur on Monday, December 6, 2010. This meeting will take place at the Superintendent’s Office, conference room, 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

This meeting was adjourned by Superintendent Lucarelli at 5:00 PM.