

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 13
SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2011

Committee Members Present : S. Carleton, L. Andrews, G. Emery
Other Board Members Present : R. A. Hohfeld
Staff Members Present : L. Martin, V. Hilchey, N. Guyer
Others Present : none
Location : Thomaston Grammar School Library

I. Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Sally Carleton, Curriculum Committee Chair, at 5:35 PM.

II. Presentation of reading intervention program READ 180.

Teachers Lilli Martin and Valerie Hilchey profiled and demonstrated the components of the READ 180 reading intervention program currently in use at Thomaston Grammar School, Georges Valley High School, and St. George School. This technology-based program assists the teacher with matching instruction to specific learning needs, providing guided practice, engaging students in the learning process, and documenting on-going assessment to reinforce learning and track continual progress. Ms. Martin & Ms. Hilchey demonstrated all aspects of the program so that committee members experienced the applications and potential benefits of this unique teaching tool first hand. Neal Guyer explained that the use of this program is being expanded to include Rockland District Middle School. Program installation there will occur this spring and faculty training is scheduled for March 29th.

Committee members thanked both teachers for their engaging and informative presentation.

III. Presentation and highlights of the mid-year Progress Monitoring Study.

Neal Guyer distributed hard copies of the mid-year Progress Monitoring Study. This report compares beginning of the year grade one reading assessment data, and reading assessment data for grades 2-8 derived from the Northwestern Evaluation Association (NWEA) – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This report also compares levels of student involvement in Response to Intervention (RTI) – Tier I – classroom-based interventions from fall to mid-year. Aspects of the mid-year report were highlighted and discussed noting implications for on-going administrative and faculty review. This report is posted on the RSU 13 website under the central office banner – with a link to assessment data. This report will also be re-issued in the spring and will compare fall, mid-year, and spring assessment data.

IV. General Updates:

Herring Gut Learning Center (HGLC) Professional Development:

Information was shared with committee members regarding a professional development opportunity that has been created for RSU 13 elementary teachers at HGLC during April of this year. This workshop series is fully enrolled and will involve teachers in learning the science of aquaponics, and equipping them to bring this unique area of learning into their classrooms. This opportunity will also culminate in teachers bringing their classes to HGLC for a science-based field trip experience later in the spring.

Mathematics Audit Update:

An update was provided regarding the on-going mathematics audit taking place within the RSU. This audit will involve several pathways of investigation to gather status information about the variety of instructional programs being utilized, fidelity to & history of program implementation, perceived strengths and weaknesses of existing programs, a sampling of faculty preferences and philosophical approaches, historical examination of performance data trends along with course taking patterns within high school, and other avenues of investigation that become fruitful as this study process continues. The goal of this audit is to collect a variety of relevant information, organize it, and in doing so paint a holistic picture of mathematics programming across RSU 13. It is intended that this audit will also yield highlights of where approaches are congruent, and where they are not. With this information, the administrative team will then be soliciting the faculty's assistance in charting a more unified course forward.

The Great Schools Partnership is collaborating with RSU 13 to advance this audit process, and to that end a Partnership consultant will be visiting RDMS, GVHS, RDHS, & TGS on March 21 and 22nd to conduct faculty and student interviews. The Curriculum Committee will review initial audit findings at the regular Curriculum Committee meeting to be held on May 19, 2011.

V. Other/adjourn:

The Curriculum Committee confirmed its next meeting for Thursday, April 14, 2011, 5:30 PM, McLain Building. This agenda highlights will include updates on:

- *Curriculum Budget Themes*
- *World Language Programming*
- *Other topics to be determined*

This meeting was adjourned by N. Guyer at 7:15 PM.