

Dover School Committee meeting minutes 9/4/2008

Committee Present: Darin Correll, Jennifer DaSilva, Susan Hackney, Bob Springett and James Stuart

Others Present: Valerie Spriggs, Kirk Downing, Ginny Keniry, Deb Reinemann

Called to order at 1900.

Goals Document

The goals and initiatives document will be finalized at the 9/18/08 meeting.

Discussion was had regarding an addition to the document addressing a specific curriculum for “accelerated” learners. Mr. Downing pointed out that the more accepted term is “highest achieving students”. He also pointed out that at Chickering there is a large population of these students and that we should have an excellent curriculum for all our students to include regular measures of success. This includes the planned differentiated instruction and small group instructions. In addition, Everyday Math has built into its design a wide range of expectations which allows it to be a rigorous curriculum for all learners.

Ms. Spriggs informed the committee that a grant had been written previously to get monies to examine the possibility of developing a curriculum for our highest achieving students. She will present more information on the exact nature of this after she reviews the documents.

Discussion was had regarding increasing communications with the community (i.e. not only the school community but also Dover at large). We will continue to tape and broadcast primary monthly meetings on DSCTV. We will try to have a quarterly distribution of specific topics via the print media. We will have another “State of the School” night. Mr. Downing will try to attend events of various groups throughout Dover (e.g. Council on Aging, Selectmen, Warrant Committee) in order to increase his knowledge of the community and his presence in it. Ms. Spriggs informed Mr. Downing that he is welcome to accompany her to several events she has already been invited to attend in Dover. Ms. Keniry informed the committee of a publication from the Holliston School district that she feels may be worth reviewing to get ideas for increasing communication to the town of Dover. She will provide a copy to the committee to see.

Technology Plan

Ms. Keniry informed the committee that a standing Technology Committee has been formed to be chaired by Trisha Nugent. There will be a trial of Interactive White Boards in 2 classrooms in both the 3rd and 5th grade and one in the lower level computer lab as well as an Information Board placed in the Lobby. A technology roadmap for the next 3 years will be developed to include such items as classroom instruction integration, Aspen X2 (student information system), Galileo (for ELA assessment in 4th/5th grades). It was pointed out that technology benchmarks/standards should be defined to ensure that students are prepared for entry to the Middle School. These might include keyboarding

skills, software program familiarity (e.g. MSWord, PowerPoint, Excel) and programming. It was also pointed out that we need to ensure the value to either student learning or school efficiency of technology measures as they are in general time consuming and expensive.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Dr. Reinemann discussed that this initiative covers the plans in place for small groups and differentiated instruction as well as meeting the Federal mandates. It is important to identify potential “issues” with students early so as to possibly decrease the need for SPED referrals later. Two levels of intervention that were discussed are Tier 1 – differentiated instruction in the classrooms to be implemented this academic year and Tier 2 – having students pulled out of the classroom in small groups for specific instruction to be implemented next academic year.

Assessment Roadmap

Mr. Downing stated that the plan is for 10-12 week assessment points in various areas of the curriculum throughout the year. This time point choice is based on some research in the educational literature.

Other Items

Mr. Springett brought up the following points for future consideration:

- Time to Learn must be addressed
- Benchmarks/Performance Standards
 - Who should we measure ourselves against (e.g. International Baccalaureate)
 - Ongoing formative assessments and specific progress monitoring tools needed

Adjourned at 2050.

Respectfully submitted by:
Darin J. Correll, M.D.
Secretary DSC