

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 57**  
Office of the Superintendent  
Waterboro, Maine 04087

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2015

**Members Present:**

Donald Beane	Anthony Brunton	Karla Bergeron	Jodi Laine
Judith Vasalle	Heather Silva		

**Others Present:**

Christine Bertinet	Chris Elkington	Lori Lodge	Jen Blair
Melissa Knight			

**AGENDA:**

**A. Call to Order**

Heather Silva called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**B. Declaration of Quorum**

Quorum was met with 6 members in attendance.

**C. Approval of Minutes February 23, 2015**

Several changes were suggested by Judith Vasalle. The changes are noted and will be reflected in the revised minutes.

**D. Curriculum Focus Area: Math (presentations by Melissa Knight and Jen Blair)**

Melissa Knight, from Line Elementary School, shared an overview of the math alignment with the CCSS this year. She highlighted the positive outcomes from this process. Teachers provided targeted, specific feedback on the math continuum/curriculum. Revisions have been well received.

Ms. Knight shared some math texts being used as an example of high quality math investigation. For example, teachers are discussing ways to engage learners in higher level mathematical thinking to reinforce the shift toward problem solving and reasoning coupled with content. The new *Everyday Math* program (version 4) is better aligned with the CCSS.

A question was posed around the shift away from worksheet driven instruction. Ms. Knight shared an example of hands on, real-world math problems she is using to expose children to higher-level thinking. Ms. Knight shared that teachers have been able to go deeper with the math targets this year due to minimal changes in this year's curriculum. Ms. Knight shared examples of integrated units where she weaves writing, reading, and math concepts together.

Mr. Elkington highlights the progress Line School has made in the area of math and attributes this to using EDM with fidelity.

Ms. Knight also discusses the use of NWEA data and the RtI process in place to support the math progress at Line. Ms. Knight outlined the targeted intervention block at Line designed to support individual needs.

Jen Blair distributed a folder of resources and walked the committee members through each resource. The high school is working on closer alignments to the CCSS. Ms. Blair explains what they are doing to build upon the skills outlined in the CCSS. She highlighted the importance of building in mathematical practices and higher-level reasoning.

Mr. Beane inquired about the placement of probability in the DRAFT course outline/math targets. Ms. Knight shared an observation that there are no probability targets at the elementary level. In the past, this had been a part of the curriculum. This is something we may want to revisit as we consider shifts in the math curriculum. Should we re-introduce probability at the elementary level again? Ms. Blair explains the expectations as students enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Elkington reinforces the power of credits. The CCSS for Mathematics “Standards for Mathematical Practice” document is explained, along with some sample performance tasks. Open-ended problems and collaborative learning is an important component of a math curriculum. Ms. Blair discussed the wealth of problem-based lessons available online for educators.

Ms. Knight discusses having students justify their answers and explain their reasoning in response to problems. Mr. Elkington shares an example from a book he’s read around student motivation and engagement as it relates to open-ended questions. Ms. Knight discusses the importance of developing and maintaining a growth mindset. Learning can be uncomfortable, but perseverance is important and discomfort is okay. Developing a culture of inquiry is essential.

Heather Silva asked what the biggest challenges were. Ms. Knight responded that one of the challenges is branching out beyond EDM and weaving other resources in order to strengthen instruction and assessment practices. Ms. Knight thinks it’s important to share supplemental resources throughout the district. Ms. Blair thinks time is a huge factor in successful implementation of the math curriculum. Ms. Blair highlighted the time that will be built into the day to focus on math instruction. She also discussed a need to push more integer exposure and practices down to the elementary and middle school levels. A discussion ensued around the importance of strengthening mathematical fluency (needs to be solid by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at the latest).

Anthony Brunton asked about how this approach will benefit or challenge students with special needs. Ms. Blair shared that she feels it gives them a smaller focus at any given time. The educational technicians support students with special needs in the classroom. Ms. Blair explained some of the interventions offered at MHS to support struggling students.

**E. 2015-16 Program of Studies Approval**

Mr. Elkington explains that the PoS shared with the committee members reflects the changes that were approved at the last meeting. Ms. Silva asked a question about World Languages and the reasoning behind continuing with French, as it may be phased out down the road. Ms. Bertinet distributed a resource to committee members to consider prior to an upcoming discussion (next meeting). There is a need to clarify for parents and students that French will potentially be phased out.

**Motion by Bergeron, seconded by Beane to:** approve the 2015-16 Program of Studies with the changes discussed.

**No discussion.**

**Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.**

**F. Proficiency Based Diploma – Updates**

Mr. Elkington reviewed his recommendations to the Curriculum Committee (see 2/23/15 Principal's memo).

Questions and Answers ensued around the following recommendations outlined in this memo.

**Motion by Beane, seconded by Bergeron to:** accept the recommendations as amended.

**No discussion.**

**Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.**

**G. MEA Assessment Update**

1. Technology is all set
2. Schedule developed
3. Preparation exercises (training, practice, performance)
4. Parents opting out (form)
5. Impact on students if opting out

**H. Proposed Agenda Items for 3/23/15**

1. Review sample revised progress report (K-8 & MHS)
2. Student completion rates/dropout rates
3. World Languages

**I. Next Meeting:**

Monday, March 23rd 2015 @ 6:00 Central Office

**K. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.