



Howard Tuttle, Superintendent of Schools  
Deborah Taylor, Director of Curriculum and Technology  
Delia Dearnley, Director of Special Services

Larry Dancer, Director of Operations  
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## **RSU 12 Curriculum, Learning, and Instruction Committee Agenda/Minutes**

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

**Chelsea Elementary School – 5:30 pm**

Present: Will Sugg, Frank Hample, Abby Manahan, Deb Taylor

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2018: (5 minutes)**

**Unanimous**

**2. CURRICULUM UPDATE: (10 minutes)**

RSU 12 is providing ongoing training in the workshop model of instruction to all teachers at all grade levels and in all content areas. The workshop model is a model of instruction involving a teacher-led, focused mini-lesson providing explicit instruction followed by a significant period of time for student work in small groups or independently. During this time, the teacher facilitates small groups and confers with individual students. The lesson concludes with a brief closing activity that synthesizes and celebrates the learning. The emphasis is on student engagement. The model shifts the focus from the teacher to the student. It cultivates student autonomy and ownership of their learning and facilitates personalization of learning. This model is the bedrock of the Writing Units of Study implemented district-wide and is consistent RSU 12's vision for learning. In these in-district professional development sessions, teachers are focusing on the effective design and delivery of mini-lessons and the release of students to the workshop portion of the lesson. Teachers watch a model mini-lesson, reflect on their observations, collaborate on the design of their own mini-lesson, and deliver the lesson to "live" learners in the classroom. Coaches provide feedback and facilitate further reflection.

The State of Maine released the Maine Educational Assessment scores for the 2017-18 testing administration. These includes scores for 3rd through 8th graders in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) and for 5th and 8th graders in Science. They also include scores for RSU 12's third year high school students in ELA, Math, and Science. Students took these State-mandated tests in the Spring of 2018. Schools are required to administer these tests annually and to make every effort to ensure that all students participate. Scores our reflection on our curriculum and instructional practices and are part of our comprehensive assessment system to measure progress towards learning goals. You can find test results at this link: <https://lms.backpack.education/public/maine>. The achievement level descriptors and score ranges are established annually and can be found at [https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing\\_Accountability/MECAS/results](https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/results).

**3. RSU 12's ESSENTIAL STANDARDS CONTINUED: (10 minutes)**

Here is a [link to the standards](#).

Discussed the process by which these standards were identified and the ongoing nature of the curriculum work.

**2014-15 Defining Criteria**

Teachers overwhelmingly stated the following as important criteria for our process and product:

- Clear connection to "source" standard as articulated in the Maine Learning Results
- A viable set of standards to which we would hold ourselves accountable - our essential standards
- Access to all of the standards in the Maine Learning Results whether deemed essential or not

**2014-17 Grade Level Discussions**



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Teachers met in grade level teams during district early release once a month to unpack the standards at their grade level and determine which were essential. This process was supported through annual professional development by the Curriculum Director.

#### 2017-18 Vertical Discussions

Teachers met across grade levels to examine the standards as a learning progression to ensure coherence for learners as they move from grade to grade. This culminated in refinements of the defined essential standards. This work was informed by an examination of other learning progressions, specifically those developed by the Maine Cohort for Customized Learning.

#### 2018-ongoing Implementation and Refinement

Teachers continue to meet during district early to unpack standards into student-friendly language and to define scales of rigor for the standards. This process includes an examination of student work, teacher-designed assessments, State and local assessment data, lesson design and instructional practice. We will look for gaps in understanding and in preparedness for future learning and make revisions to the essential standards as needed based on the results of these examinations.

Curriculum committee discussed possible action that would be taken at the board level on these standards.

#### 4. INVENTORY OF CURRICULUM RESOURCES: (20 minutes)

See [link](#)

Tabled to next time.

#### 5. OTHER:

#### 6. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS (Once marked complete, the item will be removed from the list for the following month):

#### 7. ACTION FOR NEXT MEETING: Add the following to next month's agenda

- Learning Commons model

#### 8. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 10, 2019

END TIME:

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Taylor  
Director of Curriculum and Technology