

Curriculum Committee Notes
5:00 -6:00* pm MCHS Conference Room B
June 11, 2014

Present: Nancy Harriman, Lynette Johnson, Stephen Hayes, Bonnie Simcock
Donna Wolfrom

The Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator thanked Lynette Johnson for her service on the Curriculum Committee and Health Curriculum Committee. Although her term on the RSU Board is ending, Lynette offered to continue to support the efforts of the Health Curriculum Committee in the future as a parent/community member, if needed.

1. Proficiency-based Grading

Extension Options – Timelines

The options issued by the State Dept. of Education for extending the date by which students must meet the requirements for a proficiency-based diploma were reviewed. After much consideration, the Administrative Team chose **Option 4**, which requires that the RSU have a system in place to start assessing proficiency for language arts and mathematics immediately. Next year's 9th graders (class of 2018) would have to meet proficiency in those standards as part of their graduation requirements, and by 2021 all students would have to meet the proficiency requirements in all 8 content areas and the guiding principles of the Maine Learning Results. The RSU has to apply for this Extension Option by July 1 and file a plan and timeline.

Public Awareness

The Committee agreed this was a good choice, and noted that more Common Core-based resources are available in ELA and Math because many other states are implementing them.

A primary topic of discussion was how to inform and involve parents. Suggestions included:

- Tie into Communication Committee next year
- FAQ's on Proficiency-based on website
- Periodic updates from Supt./Curriculum Coordinator (like Budget letters)
- Internal resources for parents so they can see what we're doing & why
- Joint workshops for parents and their students

Other concerns discussed included a) the need for multiple pathways and RTI/credit recovery options – to make sure there are alternative forms of assessments for students, too; b) to implement changes in the grading system first at elementary level, then phase it up through the grade levels; c) multi-grade grouping at middle level and whether high achieving students would have the same opportunities to advance; d) how to motivate students who aren't invested in education by developing a sense of achievement.

2. Updates on Curriculum Work

World Language - AAPPL Test was piloted with all students completing Level I of any language this spring (grade 8 and high school). The results will be used to inform curriculum work and validate common proficiency levels.

Health Curriculum revisions, Gr. 6-8 – Survey results are informing updates to the Gr. 6-8 Health Curriculum

Science K-12 Curriculum work this summer- Work on Next Gen Science standards (not yet adopted by Maine) will start this summer and continue next year.

3. Committee Members' questions

Overall, the Committee is hopeful the new curriculum work underway and proficiency-based initiative will respark the kind of energy that was present when Maranacook opened in 1976.