

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Student Achievement Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 4:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor
Committee members absent: None

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Sadinsky, Principal of Strong School and Mrs. DiMaggio, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – May 30, 2018

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of May 30, 2018, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of May 30, 2018, as presented: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to add “Class Size at Strong Middle School” to the agenda.

In favor of adding “Class Size at Strong Middle School” to the agenda: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Class Size at Strong Middle School

Mr. Sadinsky reviewed the changes that were made last year and implemented this year at Strong School with the overall goal of increasing time in learning or instructional time that amounted to an addition of 50 minutes per week. The schedule changed from an 8 period day to a 7 period day with academic sections changing from 5 to 4. In the recent past there was a provision made for cross teaming which resulted in class sizes that were more similar.

Strong Middle School SY18-19

- Increased Instructional Time from 40 to 50 minutes per class period which is a net increase of 50 minutes/week/class.
- Increased Intervention Time (proposal for 1.0 Math, 1.0 Literacy Interventionist, 1.0 Literacy Coach)
- Due to declining enrollment, reduced headcount by 1.0 FTE - fiscal responsibility
- Longer PLC meeting time for content teams that are a part of teachers' regular schedule
- Maintain regular team meetings (i.e. Red, Blue, Green, Purple)
- Change in schedule from 8 periods to 7 (no more flex)
- Monday - Friday schedule (no more A-F)
- Former schedule, a 1.0 teacher taught 5 classes - new schedule they teach 4
- Change from 3 to 4 marking periods, with PE now a part of Related Arts rotation with Art, Health, & TI
- All classes (except band/chorus) meet daily
- There are **7 sections in total of 8th grade** content area classes
 - Red Team teachers teach 4 sections each (Contemporary students)
 - Green Team teachers teach 3 sections each (ID students)
- There are 5 sections in total of all content area classes in **7th grade**
 - Teachers who 'live' on the blue team - teach 4, 7th grade classes each
 - Green Team Teachers - teach one, section of 7th grade
- Due to a variety factors... decision was made for 7th grade to be one team - no more ID & Contemporary
 - Declining Enrollment
 - Multiple requests to switch teams
- We confidently and responsibly made the to go with a one team approach in 7th grade as the best way to support our students with the understanding the one team approach would be for both 7th and 8th grades for SY19-20.
- With the changes noted, we knew class size would be impacted due to enrollment as well as due to the difference in # of students on each Red/Green teams (8th grade)
- Student Enrollment SY18-19
 - Red (8) = 98
 - Green (8) = 52
 - Blue (7) = 117

Important item

- Math placement influences master schedule

Impact of changes

- Increased class time, fewer class sections = larger class sizes.
- Made recommendation for staffing levels that would meet the needs of our students that included interventionists and a coach to support all students.
- The 1.0 FTE ELA position was not replaced. With the addition of 2.0 Interventionists = net reduction of 3.0 classroom teachers. (fewer teachers teaching fewer class sections)
- With PLC meetings now a part of teachers regular/weekly schedule, and maintaining regular team meeting times, with the exception of Algebra, 8th grade classes on ID and Contemporary do not meet at the same time through the full 5-day cycle.
- Additionally, the green team teachers need to be available to teach their respective 7th grade section. This does not occur for all four green team teachers at the same time.

- This puts ‘limits’ on when classes can meet - reduced some of the flexibility we had with previous schedule.

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed John Hattie’s research on effect size; the statistical measurement of impact on student achievement. This research indicates that the most impactful influences include self-reported grades/student expectations with an effect size of 1.44 (#1/150) and class size has an effect size of .21 (#113/150)

Dr. Taylor suggested that Mr. Sadinsky communicate to parents the reasons behind the increase in class size including fewer sections in order to increase class size, accelerated math and algebra, teachers teaching students in both grades and on two teams.

Mrs. Petrella asked that all parents be made aware of this and indicated that she is satisfied by the rationale shared by Mr. Sadinsky.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Presentation

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed the progress of curriculum work across the district including all the subject areas that have complete curriculum documents as well as those that are in progress, the assessment calendar completion, the data dashboard is up. Student Data Privacy requirements have caused an increase in expectations and legal interface in order to meet all legal requirements. Our instructional launches include i-Ready Diagnostics, NGSS, Foundations, and Readers’ Workshop.

SBAC Scores and Growth Scores Review

Mrs. DiMaggio reviewed the ELA and Math SBAC performance including performance levels in grade 3-8, celebrations and growth areas, growth scores and relative standing within the DRG. ([This presentation is linked here.](#))

There was conversation about overall performance on the Listening claim in ELA and discussion about the possible variables that contribute to our performance in this area.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Dr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.