

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Excellence in Student (EISA) Committee Minutes
Wednesday October 18, 2017
Sanborn Regional High School (Library)
5:00 PM

In attendance: Dr. Pamela Brown, Larry Heath, Tammy Mahoney, Superintendent Ambrose, Principal Stack, Curriculum Director Turmelle

1. Call to order by Dr. Brown at 5:02 pm
2. Discussion:

Superintendent Ambrose, Principal Stack and Curriculum Director Turmelle met with EISA and answered questions about the three degree paths offered by SAU17 (20, 28 and 32 units). They described how our students are supported to complete one of the three high school diplomas we offer. The academic indicators which might be used for measuring “student success” at each grade level was discussed. Ambrose said he will continue meeting with teachers in small groups to obtain information on the appropriate assessments to be used to measure success at each grade level. Once the indicators are identified, cut scores and incidences of students reaching those scores will be chosen to measure “success” and progress in student achievement over time. Mr. Stack described a new data service, “Naviance” which tracks the post-degree progress of Sanborn students entering colleges and universities. The service has only three years of data collected to date Stack said. Mr. Turmelle said “Pinnacle Gradebook” software is used by the district to precisely track each student’s performance and determine where short or long term academic support may be needed. He described the cultural hurdle faced by SAU17 in terms of the percentages of adults in our communities with college degrees. 28% for Kingston, 30% for Newton and 29% for Fremont. This is significantly below better-performing districts such as Oyster River where 76% of adults in their SD area have Bachelor’s degrees or higher. Turmelle said that a document outlining “10 Indicators of Success,” aligned to the Federal ESSA program (Every Student Succeeds Act) will be released by the NH Dept. of Education shortly. It will be available for districts to use as a template, and our PLCs (professional Learning Communities) will also identify “in-house” indicators of success for Sanborn students, he said. Turmelle identified three main groups of learners at Sanborn: those with special needs (IEPs), 17% of students; another group of 30 to 40% who are “in the middle” and struggling to become excellent and may lack “aspiration/inspiration” at home; and the rest (third group) who are doing well academically.

3. Dr. Brown presented the EISA Status Report (for 2016-17) and Annual Goals (for 2017-18) as required by Policy BDE:

STATUS REPORT, 2016-17 year

EISA (“Excellence in Student Achievement”) was launched in 2016-17. Jan Bennett student “achievement” and “success.” Some measures and goals were identified such as improved SAT scores, gainful employment after graduation, and increased transfer to universities. Michael Turmelle and Ellen Hume Howard (District Curriculum and High School administrators) met regularly with EISA and explained our testing scores and

reasons behind them. The push for more quantitative measures by EISA and the Board yielded a more detailed 5-Year Strategic Plan for 2016-2021 (40 pages with timelines and measurable academic targets). This was an improvement over the prior 5-year Plan which was shorter and with few measurable goals. Our Math program also experienced significant reform due to EISA and Board efforts and these curriculum improvements are ongoing.

Chair Jan Bennett asked the administration to produce a video guide, "The Typical Day of a Student," from either a Middle School or High School experience – to show our community what "Competency Based Learning" or PACE (Proficiency Assessment for Competency Education) involves. The video was to take the viewer through one student's day and show the projects being completed to gain an "authentic" learning experience along with other classroom activities, weekly homework assignments, and an example of a summative assessment. This project remains to be completed.

ANNUAL GOALS, 2017-18 year

This year, EISA will develop a timeline with measurable outcomes and expected improvements (academic targets) for each grade level and each degree option sought. The objective is to empirically track student performance and utilize the data to identify which programs and services have been most effective in increasing the overall success of our learners. Additional resources and new programs can be accurately introduced over time to ensure an increasingly successful experience. The array of classroom assessments and standardized tests used to track performance for each grade and degree option will be decided collaboratively among district stakeholders. The 5-Year Strategic Plan and Annual Report Card will be revisited to imbed the performance indicators and targets once the plan is reviewed and approved by the Board.