BOE Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
4:30 p.m.
Training Room 201
SBOE Administrative Offices

Call to Order: 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members in Attendance: Chairperson Amy Romano, Carl Rizzo, Kate Kutash, Patti Moonan, Kathleen Yolish

Also in Attendance: Jim Orazietti, Diana Meyer, Lorraine Williams, Deborah Keller, Dr. Christopher Clouet, Kenneth Saranich, Victoria White, Gavriella Ziu-Pires, Rick Belden, Beth Smith, Wendy Stowe, Kristen Nigretti, Caroline Schweyer, Dawn Guerriero, Darlisa Ritter, Karen Oko.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Kate Kutash MOVED to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting, SECONDED by Carl Rizzo. A vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.

Kathy Yolish MOVED to approve the agenda, SECONDED by Carl Rizzo. A vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.

Public Session: No one from the public wished to speak.

Agenda Items:

- SBAC data Review

Victoria White & Gavriella Ziu-Pires – see attached presentation.

There was discussion regarding how the targets are achieved; it is tracked on each student individually, then they take the collective group in the school, to see the performance as a whole. There was a comparison to other towns in target achieved. Shelton has outperformed many nearby systems in target achieved.

Amy Romano asked what the per-pupil spending was based on. Rick Belden explained that it is all money in the budget for regular, special education, and English Language learner students, and is the same in all other towns. Amy Romano pointed out that the students are outperforming a neighboring town, although that town has a higher per-pupil expenditure. Ken Saranich said that this is a testament to the teaching staff we have, and that with a slight increase we could go from good to great. Gavi Ziu-Pires noted that although we have been performing well, it may not continue in the long term. Vicky White informed the committee of the increase in ELL students over the past decade. There has been an increase from 59 students to 255 students, using 42 languages. Kathy Yolish pointed out that much of the resources have come from grant money, through the hard work by the Teaching & Learning department. However, the grants are going to expire within the next one (1) to two (2) years.

Amy Romano inquired about tiered intervention. Vicky White explained SRBI (Scientifically Researched Based Intervention) is a State of Connecticut program which provides students with intervention services that qualify. SBAC is one area. The data teams in the schools will make the determination intervention.

Amy Romano questioned where the need for additional support staff would be. There was much discussion that this will become clear during the budget workshops. Jim Orazietti commented that more information prior to the budget workshops would be helpful. There was also discussion regarding the need for Curriculum revision, and the funding for it.
Superintendent’s Commentary:
Superintendent Clouet commented that the way we measure success in school is changing. There are new data points to look at.

Chairperson’s Commentary:
Chairperson Amy Romano stated that the committee is trying to do what is right for the kids. She is looking at the big picture and understand everything and have an educational budget.

Comments or Suggestions from Committee Members: None

Old Business: None

New Business:
- Chairperson Amy Romano presented a Comparative Curriculum Exercise. She showed the group three (3) projects completed by three (3) different students. There were different rubrics and different projects. Her question is which student would have gained more knowledge based on the three projects displayed. The group collectively agreed that there was important information missing to draw any conclusions. There was much discussion on this subject.
- Ken Saranich informed the Committee that the information was emailed to all members before the meeting. He briefly went over where to find the Innovation Data, Curriculum Data, and Survey summary information.

Next Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Tentative Agenda: Proposed new High School courses

Patti Moonan MOVED to adjourn the meeting, SECONDED by Carl Rizzo. A vote was taken with all in favor, motion carried.

Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Coppola
January 20, 2020