

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-16 District Goals

1. Comprehensive District Educational Planning

The Board of Education supports the completion of a multi-year academic plan that will engage members of our school community in a process that:

- is driven by a renewed District mission, vision, and core values;
- is focused on the importance of improving academic achievement through substantive and meaningful engagement with data that includes multiple measures of student growth;
- affirms the principles of stakeholder participation, collaboration, communication and shared decision-making, and;
- considers existing and anticipated curricular, instructional, and infrastructure needs, financial constraints, and enrollment trends.

2. Program Support Under the Tax Levy Cap

In recognition that the District likely will face significant financial challenges in the coming years due to the legislative limits of the New York State tax levy cap , the Board of Education will:

- examine potential options to maintain and expand educational programs through the annual budget development process and;
- reach out to and collaborate with stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community organizations, for input and assistance at a time when State government is not a reliable, responsible, or responsive partner.

3. Advocacy, The Board of Education will expand its advocacy efforts on behalf of the District's children on multiple levels regarding school finance reform, appropriate use of state assessments and other regulatory relief and legislation that will affirm local control and strengthen public schools as an essential element of a democratic society.

Draft 8/28/15

4.2.1

Communications Committee Meeting

August 19, 2015

Attendees: Deirdre Burns, Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan, Steve Jensen

Website Re-launch

Over the summer, the website was rolled over to the new format and includes additional functionality.

- Google calendar runs in the background so teachers, parents and students can download specific information to their own digital calendars.
- Ask the District is a new feature that allows anyone to pose a question to the District. Questions can range from "Where can I find the school supply list?" to "What is the District's policy on X?" The hope is that our users will go directly to the sources of information and rely less on word of mouth or social media to learn about what's happening in the schools. Each question will remain private until curated by Joe or the proper Administrator. The goal is to respond to questions within 24 hours at which time all questions and answers will become public and be listed on the home page.
- An email button appears in the upper right corner to assist staff in sending email directly to the proper recipient. (After this discussion, it was determined that this should be removed as it was not helpful to the general public.)
- For teachers, 5-6 "how to" videos are being produced and archived on the site to assist in setting up dynamic pages.
- The Twitter feed is also present on the home page for viewers to "follow" or get updates.

The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting an open workshop in the computer lab for teachers needing assistance in setting up pages or navigating the new site. Steve will look into setting up times prior to the opening of school when teachers are organizing their classrooms and in the early days of the school year. Help desk is always available through webmaster@rhinebeckcsd.org. Queries will go directly to Steve Jensen and Ed Schindler, our webmaster and web designer, to respond to questions/concerns.

On the back end, there is a New Teacher Mentor page which archives all the digital resources available to staff and faculty. They will also have a central location for reserving computer carts and compiling photo release information.

Home page photo carousel

The committee spent a great deal of time brainstorming ideas for keeping the main page fresh. The goal will be to change the images and messages quarterly to address timely information. We will pilot 3 themes:

- This is what public education looks like (i.e. classroom happenings),
- Community (i.e. PTSO picnic),
- Extra-Curricular activities (i.e. HS Play news)

In order to make this work, sourcing quality images that reflect all segments of the school community is crucial. The committee discussed the possibility of offering community service to students who have an eye for photography and/or talking to the Yearbook advisors whose students are shooting events around the school throughout the year. More discussion around image sourcing is needed.

Public Roll-out

Prior to the start of the school year, an email blast will be sent out informing parents about the re-launched site and its new functionalities. We will also pilot the use of "targeted" information blasts which will allow the public to sign up for email blasts about Board-related activities. As new information is posted to the website, an email will be sent to those who opt-in informing them of updates. We will monitor the interest in this service and hopefully gain feedback from community members asking for additional types of updates.

Moving forward, the HS Guidance pages will be updated. Board members are asked to spend some time on the site and provide and feedback/corrections to webmaster@rhinebeckcsd.org.

2015-16 Communications Agenda

- continue to talk about ways to highlight the positive message of education in Rhinebeck
- liaise with School Start Time committee to provide information to our community
- continued review of website
- additional items as identified by Board Goals workshop

Next Meeting: September 17, 2015

Respectfully Submitted: Laura Schulkind

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 25, 2015

Attendance: Laura Schulkind, Deirdre d'Albertis, Rick Walker, Joe Phelan, Marvin Kreps.

ELA District Curriculum Review

Marvin updated members of the committee on curriculum work undertaken over the summer with emphasis on preparation of ELA plans in CLS and BMS for eventual board approval this fall. Working from a 5 page spread sheet, he covered a wide range of projects.

1. **K-5 ELA should be ready for board approval in September.** Marvin (and the curriculum committee) will ask members of the BOE to review and approve the "front section" of these curriculum documents (leaving the balanced literacy planner and week-by-week plans as important supplements not requiring board action or approval to implement). The "front section" will include overview documents ("placemat") with learning goals (in the form of "I can" statements) and cross-curricular connections outlined. Marvin pointed out how time-intensive the curriculum writing and revision process has been for Rhinebeck. Many districts simply buy curriculum "out of a box" to avoid the investment represented by the countless hours of work spent in Rhinebeck on developing our own "home grown" plan. Alignment is always a concern; what our teachers cover locally must prepare students for Common Core Learning Standards and state assessments, even as these standards and assessments are still being developed. Project Lead the Way, for instance, is a technology curriculum already adopted by RCSD; PLTW is aligned to "next gen" science standards but New York State has not yet adopted those standards. Adapting PLTW to align with Rhinebeck students' particular needs is one example of the kind of customization undertaken by teachers and our director of curriculum development over the summer months. Marvin expects to share the K-5 ELA curriculum in "penultimate draft form" to the curriculum committee by Sept. 11th in preparation for our next meeting on Sept. 15th.
2. **Middle School ELA curriculum:** Marvin now has all units for grades 6, 7, and 8 in hand. If time permits, he hopes to share a revised draft document with the curriculum committee prior to our Sept. 15th meeting.
3. **Institutional Challenges:** Marvin observed that vertical conversations (for instance, across buildings within disciplines) are also important to foster in tandem with curriculum writing within grade-level teams or other working groups. It is not yet clear how such a "teacher-informed review process" of K-12 learning might best take place, but it is his fervent wish to support such

conversations across the school. Could the revived CDEP planning group consider how best to address such questions?

4. **A balanced literacy “operational manual” or appendix** outlining definitions, processes and procedures is being prepared alongside curriculum documents to support teachers as they work to implement new material in their classrooms.
5. **High School ELA:** all unit planners in draft form have just been submitted. Marvin will begin the review process with Ed Davenport soon. As the curriculum is being developed in grades 9-12 it will be being taught, so 2015-16 should be considered a “draft” year for curricular changes. There was some general discussion of how course sequences within a department are developed, revised, and altered over time.
6. **Additional Curriculum Projects include:**
 - a. Math/AIS alignment: Everyday Math curriculum reviewed in terms of deepening computational fluency and mathematical problem solving.
 - b. Review of PLTW launch curriculum for grades K-5.
 - c. Work with Specials teachers (Art, Music, Phys Ed, Library) at CLS to create integrated lesson planning or “connected practices” in relation to new curriculum at the elementary school.
 - d. Alignment of Geometry and Algebra 2 curricula in the high school.
 - e. Flipped Library Instruction in BMS/RHS library: development of imovies and screen casts to aid students step-by-step in learning NoodleTools, etc.
 - f. Principles of Engineering adapted to use Canvas Learning Management System for a “blended online experience.”
 - g. AP history revision for European and Global as well as revision of Regents Global, US History, Participation Government and Economics. A long-term goal is to see vertical integration between middle school and high school history curricula.
 - h. Alignment of Spanish curriculum across BMS and RHS.
 - i. BMS Computer Lab Project is underway since allocation of funds from RSF has been agreed upon—the equipment is arriving now. Students will work with the i-SAFE platform to learn about internet safety and digital citizenship; the Tinker platform will be used for programming units (based on Scratch coding software <https://scratch.mit.edu/>). Skills instruction will begin with self-assessment via survey monkey as students enter 6th grade: for the next few years we expect to see a wide range of comfort and familiarity among our students with digital tools. Finally, BMS will adopt “container projects” at each grade level to integrate technology learning with content in the disciplines. Over each of the three school years, students will be expected to create some sort of “Ken Burns style” multimedia project, a brochure using Publisher, and a presentation using digital tools such as Excel or PowerPoint. The lab will support the acquisition of skills needed to deliver information within the content areas.

Members of the committee commended both Marvin and the teachers in our district who have dedicated so many hours to curriculum work for their sustained creative effort and energies. Marvin agreed that curriculum writing and revision is “the engine of innovation” in our district, expressing his gratitude for budgetary support in order to accomplish this important work.

Agenda:

The committee meets again on September 15th to review the final draft of ELA curriculum documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d’Albertis

4.3

Joe Phelan

From: Mary Ann Bovee
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Joe Phelan
Subject: FW: NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting Voting Delegate Form

Do you want me to complete this? Who is the NYSSBA voting delegate and alternate?

Mary Ann

From: Denise Carmichael [<mailto:denise.carmichael@nyssba.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 2:54 PM
Subject: NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting Voting Delegate Form

 New York State School Boards Association

Good afternoon!

The New York State School Boards Association Annual Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, beginning at 8 a.m., during our 96th Annual Convention and Education Expo in New York City.

Please click on the highlighted survey name below to provide NYSSBA with the name(s) of your voting delegate and alternate by 9/10/15.

Thank you for your assistance and have a great day!

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Click to open the web form I've shared with you:



[NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting Voting Delegate Form](#)

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Sent by denise.carmichael@nyssba.org
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