

December 2, 2014

### Curriculum and Programming Committee

On Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Curriculum and Programming Committee met to discuss and review the following agenda items.

John Paige reviewed the General Music curriculum for grades K to 6 as well as the Band and Chorus curriculum for grades 6 to 8. Each curriculum was in the appropriate Understanding By Design format. He pointed out how the music teachers strive to increase time both before and after school to increase time for students. There was some concern at some of the elementary grades that the Units appeared to be thin and not have the same robust identification of activities that has appeared in other curriculum that the committee has reviewed and approved. It was pointed out that Music meets only one period per week for a limited number of weeks which may be the main factor. One board member expressed concern that with the proficiency-based diploma coming online that our students may not be fully prepared if there are music standards required as there is no music requirement after 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was decided that the committee would examine the curriculum further and either ask a couple of music teachers to meet with the committee to be able to ask more questions about the curriculum or meet in January to decide whether to move the curriculum forward to the full school board.

Sue Woodhams reviewed the Technology benchmarks with the committee. She described how over time some of the benchmarks began at the junior high level and then went down the grade levels and at other times they went from Kindergarten up to the junior high level. She requested that she be able to go to the Administrative Council and discuss the Technology benchmarks and then revise and refine them K to 8. She mentioned adding a STEM piece at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level as one board member indicated that she did not find much technology related to STEM education. She indicated that most of the benchmarks were research based. Sue gave examples of how students working with teachers on various classroom projects and activities are required to learn specific technology skills in order to be successful with the completion of their projects. John Paige indicated that it would be wise to review these standards every 3 years. It was agreed that the Technology benchmarks should be a part of the grade reporting and curriculum review cycle as well.

Cherie White reported out that both Cape Elizabeth and Kennebunk have limited Foreign Language programs in the K to 8 range of their schools. Westbrook and Scarborough are two other school systems that have programs as well. The Foreign Language programs are part of the Diversified Arts in their schools. French and Spanish are the two major languages being addressed.

Cherie White shared with the committee some of the national test results on the Smarter Balanced test in Reading and Math. Only about 30% of students pass or do well on these two tests at their inception.