

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday – November 5, 2012
VO-AG Community Room
Lyman Hall High School**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cei called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Cei, C. Mansfield, J. Marrone, P. Reynolds, M. Votto

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Arciero, H. Brinton, N. Brophy, D. Bryant, D. Cannata, A. Cocchiola, E. Cohn, N. DaPonte, D. Dayo, R. Duthie, S. Gomes, J. Guarino, P. Hubeny, D. Kimball, C. LaTorre, C. Lavalette, R. Mancusi, B. McCully, S. Menzo, J. Murphy, R. Napoli, E. Neilander, J. Piacentini, R. Pizzonia, V. Reed, T. Snyder, D. Young

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Instructional Committee Meeting minutes of October 9, 2012 will be presented at the December 3, 2012 Instructional Committee Meeting.

III. PRESENTATION

A. School Presentation for School Performance Index (SPI) Targets for 2012-2013

The K-2 school principals did a PowerPoint presentation reviewing their School Performance Index targets for 2012-2013. The Reading Goal for Moses Y. Beach and Stevens Schools – To increase foundational Reading skills in the areas of phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency as demonstrated by one year's growth as measured by general outcome measure (AIMSweb). The Writing Goal for Moses Y. Beach and Stevens Schools – To increase range of Writing to include and focus on opinion, information, and narrative writing aligned with the CCSS-ELA as measured by internal (curricular) assessments. The Math Goal for Moses Y. Beach and Stevens Schools – To increase CCSS Math foundational numeracy skills: counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, and number & operations in base ten as demonstrated by one year's growth as measured by general outcome measures (AIMSweb). The Science Goal for Moses Y. Beach and Stevens Schools – To increase Science achievement through writing skills aligned to the CCSS-ELA as measured by internal (curricular) assessments.

The Reading Goal for Highland and Cook Hill Schools – Students will increase their foundational reading skills in the areas of phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition and fluency as measured by general outcomes measures. The Writing Goal for Highland and Cook Hill Schools – Students will increase their range of writing to include and focus on opinion, information and narrative writing aligned with the CCSS-ELA as measured by internal (curricular) assessments. The Math Goal for Highland and Cook Hill Schools – Students will increase their foundational numeracy skills: counting & cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, number & operations in base ten as measured by general outcomes measures. The Science Goal for Highland and Cook Hill Schools – Students will increase science achievement through writing skills aligned to the CCSS-ELA as measured by internal (curricular) assessments.

The 3-5 school principals did a PowerPoint presentation reviewing their School Performance Index targets for 2012-2013. At Yalesville, Rock Hill Parker Farms and Pond Hill Schools the following strategies will be utilized to increase student achievement in all areas – Implementation of Common Core State Standards language arts and math curriculum with fidelity, dedicated language arts and math blocks (120 minutes/60 minutes) for all students – 120 minute common language arts block to give more flexibility with time for writing instruction – On-going small group instruction in math and reading with continued use of literacy stations – Address the needs of high-risk students within the existing Enrichment/Remediation Block – Use of Common Formative Assessments and performance tasks to monitor student progress and drive instruction – Increase student to student discourse within math lessons – Utilize grade level common planning time to review curriculum, discuss instructional strategies, analyze student data, and formulate student specific action plans in language arts and math – Provide time needed for increased collaboration between grade levels and special education (including paraprofessionals) and intervention staff to assist high risk students in progressing through grade level standards.

The Middle School principals along with the Assistant Principals did a PowerPoint presentation reviewing their School Performance Index targets for 2012-2013. At Moran Middle School the Reading Goal is as follows – Much work was completed this past summer to align current curriculum with CCSS and teachers will work on implementation during the school year. Continued work within data teams to look at trends and evaluate CCSS implementation and its impact on student progress will continue. Additional opportunities to incorporate reading across the curriculum will allow for an interdisciplinary approach to the acquisition of reading skills. The Writing Goal for Moran Middle School is as follows – Staff will continue the implementation of CCSS units and work within data teams to identify trends in student outcomes, address specific areas of weakness, and work to address our next level of work. The target is January for a full CCSS implementation, a goal the teachers are working collaboratively to achieve. A number of teachers have also chosen to address writing for argument within their PGAP's, so additional support for writing across the curriculum will continue, allowing students to apply their writing skills in an array of contexts. The Math Goal for Moran Middle School is as follows – Implementation of CCSS units and work with data teams to identify trends in student outcomes will continue, along with addressing specific areas of weakness and work to address the next level of work. The creation of a consistent Early Intervention Process will allow for earlier identification of areas for growth and will grow teacher capacity to address these specific areas.

At Dag Hammarskjold Middle School the Reading Goal is as follows – Curriculum will be developed based on assessments that measure the reading crosswalk standards from CMT to CCSS. Staff has been provided with individual student performance index scores that will keep all team members comprised of student strengths and areas of concerns on the crosswalks of CMT and CCSS. The Writing Goal for Dag Hammarskjold Middle School is as follows – Staff will continue professional development in writing as we crosswalk from CMT writing to CCSS writing standards. The Math Goal for Dag Hammarskjold Middle School is as follows – Continue professional development in CCSS along with implementation of skill quizzes. Staff has been provided with individual student performance index scores that will keep all team members comprised of student strengths and areas of concerns on the crosswalks of CMT and CCSS standards. The Science Goal for Dag Hammarskjold Middle School is as follows – Staff will continue with two-year grade level plan (grades 6, 7 & 8) that focuses on producing scientific conclusions that utilize valid reasoning and relevant evidence.

The High School principals along with the Assistant Principals, the English and the Math department chairpersons did a PowerPoint presentation reviewing their School Performance Index targets for 2012-2013. At Lyman Hall High School the Reading Goal is as follows – Student performance improved in both the Response to Literature and the Reading for Information components of the assessment. Next steps include the use of focused instruction in voice and tone in literacy non-fiction measured by common formative assessments, Cornell notes to assist with making objective summaries of texts, and an intensive vocabulary initiative to help students analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.

The Writing Goal for Lyman Hall High School is as follows – Student performance improved on each component of the writing assessment. Next steps include focused common formative assessments on the elements of writing based in primary source documents, common persuasive, argumentative, and DBQ assessments, and common scoring and results analysis within the department. In addition, lower performing students will utilize CBAS Write to address areas of deficiency in their writing. The Math Goal for Lyman Hall High School is as follows – Gains were made in each area assessed on CAPT with the most significant improvements made in Algebraic Reasoning and Numerical and Proportional Reasoning. Geometry and Measurement continues to be a weak area for sophomores. Next steps include the adoption of the CCSS Algebra Curriculum which will include a series of performance tasks allowing teachers to regularly analyze student achievement on specific components of the curriculum. Similar performance tasks in geometry will be utilized to determine student progress in this area. Focus will be on supporting students in making better sense of mathematical problems and construction of viable mathematical arguments. The Science Goal for Lyman Hall High School is as follows – Gains were made in each area assessed on CAPT with the most significant improvements made in Energy Transformations and Cell Chemistry. Chemical Structures and Properties continue to be a weak area for students. Next steps include a focus on utilizing reading for information strategies included in the CCSS initiative to help students delineate and evaluate the specific claims in a text and to assist them in determining the validity of the evidence that is presented. This will assist them in developing text supported reactions to open-ended constructed response items. The department will also provide individualized instruction for those students with deficiencies identified on the 2012, grade 9 practice CAPT.

At Sheehan High School the Reading Goal is as follows – The English department will continue implementing all their past successful CAPT strategies, such as reading and writing grounded in evidence from the text, vocabulary acquisition, and grammar skills. In addition, the department will imbed more non-fiction into their grade nine and ten curriculum to align with the CCSS and concentrate on reading comprehension strategies to increase student performance. The Math Goal for Sheehan High School is as follows – The Math department has consistently provided students with preparation throughout their grade nine and ten classes. This includes incorporating proofs in all geometry classes in order to improve problem solving and higher order thinking skills, and implementing common formative assessments in Algebra and Geometry. In addition to these strategies, the Math department will align curriculum to the CCSS in the area of Algebra and Geometry, administering common formative assessments, and analyzing results in data teams. Areas of focus will also include argumentative writing, analytical reasoning, numerical and proportional reasoning, vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension and test familiarity. The Writing Goal for Sheehan High School is as follows – As we transition to the CCSS, the Social Studies department will continue to teach the document-based question and will adjust their strategies and rubrics to reflect the expectation and language of the CCSS – particularly argument writing and substantiating the argument with documents. The Science Goal for Sheehan High School is as follows – The Science department has focused their efforts on Global Interdependence Content, a 21st Century Skill, and other strategies, which include imbedded tasks and Science Technology Standards (STS) activities. This department will continue to carry out these successful strategies in addition to promoting student understanding of informational texts. This will be achieved through non-fiction reading comprehension. Science instruction will address the following skills: vocabulary, analysis of key points, application and connections.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Planning

Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel stated the teacher and administrator evaluation document will be reviewed at a future meeting.

There being no further business, Chairperson Cei adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCully
Assistant Superintendent's Secretary