

Regional School Unit 24



Educational Programming Committee Minutes

September 14, 2021

6:30pm

Sumner Memorial High School

Board Attendance:

Members: Andrea St. George-Jones, Keith Goldfarb, Janet Wilpan, Jeffrey Alley, Julia Sheehan

Other RSUB Members in Attendance: Mercy Hardison, Roy Gott

Others in Attendance: Nicole Chan, Michael Eastman, J.T. Green, Rick Dube, Heather Door, Fredy Lazo, Sue Leighton, SMHS staff members and community members.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2021-2022 School Year

Motion to elect Janet Wilpan as chair was made by Jeff Alley and seconded by Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 4 Opposed: Absent: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Motion to elect Julia Sheehan as vice chair was made by Jeff Alley and seconded by Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 4 Opposed: Absent: Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Adjustments to Agenda

No adjustments were made to the agenda

Agenda Items

Social/Emotional Learning

Nikki Chan welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented a powerpoint on RSU 24's Social/Emotional Learning, SEL, program for K-8 students. She then explained how the Maine Guiding Principles are set through the legislature, and RSU24 is required to teach them through our curriculum. Nikki shared a presentation that included lesson titles, content, and skill sets for grades K-5 SEL and explained how grades 6-8 SEL expanded on that base. Within her presentation, she showed an overarching chart explaining why it is important to implement SEL, and showed a breakdown of how students fare with a SEL

program vs no SEL program in a school. She then went on to explain why and how the 2020-2021 SMHS program came together. Last year it was taught during Tiger Time but due to the schedule constraints of 2021-2022, SEL would not be taught this year at the High School. The meeting was then opened up to questions and comments from the committee and community.

The committee thanked Nikki for the clarification and explained why they had wanted SEL as an agenda item. A discussion was then had with community members over their concerns about topics from last year, how necessary the learning is compared to a focus on traditional learning (reading/math).

A motion was made to direct Nikki to start exploring SEL programs for grades 9-12 but was quickly retracted as a motion was not needed. The committee did instruct Nikki to start looking into SEL programs for 9-12 (which is a different approach than the home-grown lessons from 2020-2021).

As the conversation ended, the committee chair, Janet, noted that everyone had been heard and any additional issues should be addressed with Mr. Green and Mr. Dube, Mr. Eastman, Mrs. Chan or herself. She thanked everyone for sharing their concerns.

Proficiency-Based Education Update

Nikki reported there are no updates at this time.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Proficiency-Based Education Update (Standing Agenda Item)

Next Meeting

October 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM - Sumner Memorial High School

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. was made by Andy St. George-Jones and seconded by Keith Goldfarb.

Votes in Favor: 5 Opposed: Absent: Abstain:

Motion passes

Community members expressed their appreciation of the explanation of SEL and are happy to hear things are different this year and that communication has been established and will continue.