

Minutes of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Board of Education  
Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg.org](http://www.ctreg.org)  
October 6, 2014

A meeting of the Planning/Personnel Committee of the Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Monday, October 6, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, Charles Cosgriff, Mike Devine, Director of Instruction Sue Domanico, WMS Principal Alice Jones, NHS Principal Andrew O'Brien, NHS teacher Jessica Piel, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton.

The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm and concluded at 7:25 pm.

Ms. Jones reviewed with the committee the need for counselors to incorporate topics such as self-advocacy and impulsivity into their curriculum. To that end, a program which has been offered to the school at no cost, as a pilot program, is being used in grade six and will be used with that class for all three of their years at WMS. She showed examples of the materials which, unfortunately, are consumables because the students write in them. There will be a pre and post testing to assess the effectiveness and quality of the program for possible future use. The program aligns the counseling program with Health class. There are 15 lessons, mapped out for teachers. It will give good structure and coherence, she said.

Ms. Van Aken wondered if the program would be applicable for grades 9-12. Ms. Domanico has brought it to the high school guidance department; however, their program is more college readiness, she said.

Ms. Jones felt it would fit well with the advisory program, and has themes that carry through.

Ms. Van Aken was interested in the tie in with Health and hoped, if the program is suitable for 9-12, that it could supplement that curriculum at the high school. It amazes her that health is only 1 year at the high school since health issues, decision making, etc., are all pertinent to that age group. She sees a large gap between grade 8 and students' next exposure to health curriculum during their junior year.

Ms. Domanico shared results of summer curriculum work. She gave the committee a "tour" of the curriculum section of the Region 14 website, highlighting a vertical articulation matrix and, for each course or grade level, course overviews, content, assessments, and resources, all in the same format.

Mr. Devine asked how the effectiveness of curriculum is assessed. Ms. Domanico explained the revision cycle, which includes an assessment piece.

Ms. Piel and Mr. O'Brien reviewed ELA course configuration at NHS and proposals for 2015-16. Ms. Piel offered a power point outlining ideas to change grade 12 English to core course choices and moving American Lit from grade 11 to grade 10 to align with American History. She spoke of current shortcomings in the ELA course configuration, cited how other districts have addressed this, and walked the committee through a 3 year implementation plan. She gave ideas for the future, including allowing students to take as many English courses as they would like, and suggested benefits to the 3 year plan and other issues to be considered, such as staffing and scheduling.

As time was short with a BoE meeting to follow, Ms. Van Aken asked that Ms. Piel return to a future meeting to finish up her presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Maryanne Van Aken*

Maryanne Van Aken  
Chair, Planning/Personnel Committee