

Curriculum and Philosophy Committee 3/28/06

- 1) Attendance- Dr Hanson, Greg Kann, Patty Lovejoy, Kim Casey, Townley Chisholm
Sally Oxnard, Tom O'Malley, Peter Stackhouse
- 2) Time commitments for testing
Mandated NECAP- Fall '06- Reading and Math for 6,7,8 and Writing in 8th
Pilots May '08 Science grades 8 and 11 (Implement in May '08)
Fall '06 Reading, Math and Writing for grade 11

Mandated NHEIAP – May '06, Reading and Math- grade 10
May '07 ?? possibly- or transition to Fall '07 NECAP

NWEA- (not mandated) Fall '06 reading, language, math grades 6 to 10
Spring '07 ditto 6 to 9
Pilot Spring '06 science 6 and 9

The NECAP involves 8 blocks of 1.5 to 3 hours for 8th
6 blocks of 1.5 to 3 hours for 6th and 7th
science pilot 8 and 11 = 2 to 3 hours
4 segments of up to 90 min for 11th grade

The real upheaval however is moving all the students around so that every student including those who need modifications, have the best possible testing experience. Mr. O'Malley chose to test students in their pods which seems more comfortable for them.

The NWEA costs us \$18,000 for the COOP schools. It consumes 60 minutes per test, 3 hours per student, or 3 class periods spring and fall. It is easier to organize than the NECAP. It is all done on computer, so we cycle the students through the computer labs. Fewer students needs accommodation as it is a graduated test. We use the NWEA to get to know the 6th grade students, to group them for parts of their lessons- grammar or spelling etc. The test also produces goals for each child.

We are still planning to look at how students did on meeting their individual goals. Mr Stackhouse will report on that at the next meeting.

- 3) NECAP scores – recently received from Fall '05 for the CMS. – outstanding scores !!
Remember that the fall data show what the student learned the preceding school year. Gradations are Proficient with Distinction (4), Proficient (3), Partially Proficient (2) and Less than Proficient (1). The scores are all posted on the website. The essence is we did significantly better than the state norms in almost every parameter except for with respect to students with IEPs, where our scores match the state norms.
- 4) other topics briefly discussed- a) we are NOT changing our policy on weighted grades at the High School, weighted grades remain for the GPA for college applications, and for class rank for

college applications, but not for calculating the top ten for graduation. b) Our new online courses will be examined to be sure they are acceptable for college entrance. That is in the development process.

- 5) agenda for next meeting- 4/18/06- A) reading and math curricula as used for the students with IEP's. research and relationship to Orton Gillingham methods?? B) f/u on NWEA scores and how students did re meeting own goals – top third, middle third, bottom third. Or some similar process. C) Resisting narrowing of the curriculum as addressed in the NYT article- continuing electives and diverse options such as foreign language, art, and music at the CMS vs need for some students to spend more time on reading etc.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah C. Oxnard MD