

**Stonington Public Schools
Board of Education
Teaching & Learning Committee Minutes
November 6, 2013
Stonington High School
5:30 PM**

I. Call to Order - 5:40pm

Present: Deb Downie, Craig Esposito, Nikki Gullickson

Absent: Alisa Morrison

Motion to approve the Minutes from October 3, 2013 meeting was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Deb Downie. Vote: 2 in favor; no nays, no abstentions

Motion to approve the Minutes from October 11, 2013 meeting was made by Deb Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito. Vote: 2 in favor; no nays, no abstentions

II. Discussion:

A. Purpose of the Teaching & Learning Committee

B. Function of the Teaching & Learning Committee

- Continuation of September's meeting discussion regarding the development of "essential questions" that would assist in the conversation of topics as well as areas of concern throughout the year.

Three essential questions to guide and focus committee discussion were proposed:

1. As a BOE committee, how can we shape the learning environment to positively impact learning outcomes?
2. How do we measure (student) success?
3. How will we know when we are effective?

C. Prioritizing the following items for future discussions

1. Curriculum Revision process
2. The Common Core Standards
3. Curriculum Revision cycle
4. Assessment updates
5. Assessment results
6. Programming needs
7. Program Evaluations
8. Special topics as needed
9. Other items to include

Related to the proposed essential questions and the topics included in item "C" of the agenda, committee conversation focused on:

- The activities presented at the Nov. 5th district professional development day. Discussed was the need for on-going useful PD. The committee would like to consider 2 -3 additional early release days placed in the 2014-2015 school calendar as a means of providing time for collaboration between teachers K-12.

- The impact of SEED on administrator time
- The necessity of additional technology (per the demands of the Common Core State Standards and new assessment platform)
- The use of building level School Climate surveys as a means of gathering teacher, parent and student feedback

The committee will attempt to re-convene in early December or early January.

III. Adjournment - 6:40pm

Nikki Gullickson, Asst. Superintendent

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