

Education Committee meeting September 12, 2013

Members: S. Gellar, A. LaRosa, R. Simon, B. Burns, A. Rullan

Also in attendance: S. Brady

The meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

- I. *NYS Testing Program:* The committee was updated on the release of last year's New York State Test scores for students in grades 3 through 8. It is anticipated that the individual student reports will be mailed home by the end of the month.

For the first time, this year's assessments measure the Common Core Learning Standards. The percentage of students deemed proficient is significantly lower than in 2011-12. This change in scores is largely the result of the shift in the assessments to measure the Common Core Standards, which more accurately reflect students' progress toward college and career readiness. Commissioner King has emphasized that the results do not reflect a decrease in performance for schools or students, but will help schools target instruction to student needs.

- II. *Professional Development:* Upon their return to school last week, teachers participated in a variety of professional development activities. The workshops were well-received.

Continuing professional development will take place throughout the school year for all teachers K-12. The focus will be on aligning our curriculum to the Common Core.

- III. *Report Cards:* Elementary report cards (K-5) were revised during the summer. Drafts are being reviewed by the faculty.

- IV. *EngageNY DataPortal:* On August 20, Dr. Rullan, Mrs. Huscilowitc and Mrs. Burns attended a workshop in which three vendors associated with the inBloom project presented their data portals. All districts are required to choose a data portal by the end of September, and we are in the process of selecting a product that will best serve the needs of our educators, parents, and students.

- V. *Committees:* In order to ensure ongoing dialogue revolving around curricular, instructional and procedural items, a number of committees will be instituted in the upcoming school year. These include: Curriculum Council, District Data Team, Professional Development Committee, Response to Intervention Committee, and a Technology Committee.

- VI. *Other:* The committee discussed:
- i. the testing calendar, which will be posted on the district website;
 - ii. the purchase of Go Math! materials for grades 7 and 8;
 - iii. the recognition of West Islip High School as a NYSED Reward School for the 2013-2014 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.