

**Education Committee meeting
February 9, 2012**

Members: S. Gellar, A. LaRosa, B. Burns

Also in attendance: S. Brady, R. Maginniss

The meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

1. Regents Results

Mrs. Burns reported on the January Regents results. Students sat for 151 Regents Exams or Regents Competency Tests and posted a 55% pass rate. This testing period is available to those students who missed the June and August exams, or those who did not successfully pass the tests in June or August. The students who passed the tests are now one step closer to fulfilling their graduation requirements.

2. International Baccalaureate Program Update

The high school is currently engaged in the course selection process. To date, there are 466 requested seats in 28 different IB courses. In the 2012-2013 school year, IB Biology will be offered for the first time as a higher level course. The humanities courses continue to have strong enrollment, and have attracted additional students who do not wish to earn the diploma, but wish to take advantage of earning an IB course certificate.

Mrs. Burns shared some of the extended essay questions for the Class of 2012.

3. Professional Development

Professional development workshops continue to be provided for our first grade teachers in reading workshop and second grade teachers in writing workshop. To date, all kindergarten through second grade teachers have attended workshops that have addressed the alignment of the math curriculum to the Common Core Learning Standards, and third through fifth grade teachers are participating in similar staff development now. Beginning in March, workshops will be offered to our middle school teachers to prepare them for the alignment of the English Language Arts Curriculum with the Common Core. Additionally, the Instructional Support Teams in the secondary buildings are continuing their work with Arlene Crandall, and the administrators are attending workshops at BOCES that address the Common Core Learning Standards, Shared Inquiry Teams, and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs).

4. Udall Comprehensive Educational Plan

The Udall staff, facilitated by Mr. Marquardt and Mrs. Vertovez, continues to create the building's Comprehensive Educational Plan, which will be used to develop a two-year improvement plan for the building. This is a building initiative, and the state

encourages District Office to work closely with Udall, assisting them in developing an effective plan and provide oversight and support to ensure effective implementation. This plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at the March meeting. Mrs. LaRosa requested that Mr. Marquardt and Mrs. Vertovez be in attendance on the March Education Committee meeting in order to answer any questions about the CEP.

5. Miscellaneous

The district is required to publish a Response to Intervention, or Rtl Plan, by July 2012. (The Rtl Plan applies to grades K-4.) To this end, a universal screener must be selected to benchmark all students throughout the year to ensure that they are making adequate progress. Screening tools are being investigated for use for this purpose. One such instrument is AIMSweb, which is a progress monitoring system in literacy, oral reading fluency, and math. We are going to pilot this tool in one elementary building and one middle school for the remainder of the school year, with the intent of using it in all elementary and middle school buildings next year.