

Proficiency Meeting  
June 7, 2016

Attendees: Lue Bagley, Becky Brown, Ryan Caron, Sarah Connors, Kat Cox, Ben Donaldson, Sarah Gay, Kathy Germani, Heidi Watson, Jon Ingram, Kathleen Doan, Ken Kunin, Julie Lefebvre, Dick Matthews, Nancy Sparacio, Carrie Stilphen, Susan Adams, Teri Wark, Megan Welter

1. Welcome
2. PbL and College Admissions

Our guest is Rachel Morales, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at USM. We sent Rachel our mock transcript with an explanation in advance of the meeting.

Rachel noted conversation has been going on at USM for a while as they have always received different types of transcripts. Rachel stressed need to make transcript clear and to communicate how student performs relative to classmates and what type of schedule student took. USM will take the time to get to understand the high schools, though noted that some colleges may not.

Rachel spoke about transcripts being key for scholarships and that it must be clear. We discussed Latin honors, which if clear can help to paint a picture of a student.

Standards and proficiency hot topic among admissions officers. She encouraged us to communicate with colleges about our system and transcript. School profile is key to helping colleges understand and value a student's transcript.

Rachel noted that SAT is used for admissions, but not for merit scholarship. Encourages us to call our 1-4 score something other than GPA. Encourages students and parents to be active in communicating with admissions officers.

Rachael-we are pressured to look at this. Professional admissions counselors want to get it right. There is a sense of "is it going to be easy to read?"

Rachael-she has been to a number of meetings around the State. Everything is on track based on what you sent. Colleges want this to go smoothly. They want to make sure they are educated and can make the right decisions. Also, focus on the profile and make it user friendly and self explanatory. You might want to ask a sample of schools from out of state based on where students are going. Ask them what they think.

While Rachel advised to stay away from calling our scale a GPA, other colleges (Bowdoin, Yale, other UMaine schools) say to put GPA on the transcript. It can be on a 4.0 scale. We should talk with others. All agree that colleges use the profile and the transcript. If we do a good job making both clear then we are doing due diligence.

### 3. PbL Implementation Plan-update and review

Each year we need to submit our work to date to the State. Becky reviewed and discussed parts of the plan. Group members read the current plan and commented on areas to update and include.

We discussed a range of topics that should be considered next year, including ongoing communication and helping students know how to talk with teachers about how they are doing in a PbL system.

Discussed importance of communication to students and parents at the start of the school year in the first days and open houses.

We also considered more active ways to engage students a grade at a time or in small groups having them talk about how PbL works. Some things for them to talk about: "Here is what worked for me." "Here is what was a problem."

Consensus is that we should have an August meeting. Ken will coordinate a date and communicate prior to the end of June to assist with planning.