



SOUTH PORTLAND SCHOOLS  
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## Proficiency-based Learning Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 2:30-4:00 p.m. at Mahoney Middle School

### ~ Minutes ~

**Present:** Lue Bagley, Kim Bennett, Becky Brown, Ryan Caron, Sarah Gay, Kathy Germani, Heidi Watson, Mary House, Jon Ingram, Ken Kunin, Julie Lefebvre, Ryan Lessard, Nancy Sparacio, Carrie Stilphen, Teri Wark, Megan Welter

We reviewed the action plan in pairs and discussed and reviewed major activities, accomplishments, current activities and next steps. Each pair answered each other's questions and share with the larger group both questions that they could not answer of that felt of particular importance.

#### Next steps/Challenges

Last year we said there would be a series of conversions as we rolled into the system. We need to rethink this. There are validity issues in this type of conversion. Colleges do not need everything on a 100 point scale.

Below are questions asked and notes of the discussion that followed:

#### What have we learned and what is the impact?

The high school has done work getting ready. We need to decide who we should be talking to at the high school. In Becky's mind students are the priority followed by parents. The question is what needs to be communicated.

#### AT the elementary level what are the next steps?

Ryan L-identifying the "I can" statements. Look back at the assessments to see what the rigor levels are.

Lue-looking at the high leverage ELTs.

Ryan-they have separated HOW for a long time. The idea behind proficiency is one people have wrapped their head around it.

Lue-elementary teachers teach everything so they grapple with the needed ELTs even when they lack some other skills. They are teaching 2 different things at once.

Ryan L-balancing the ELTs with some of the programs i.e Investigations

Lue-time is an issue. Elementary teachers have little planning time per week.

Ryan L-they do not all have a device to use to monitor and collect data. Using a checklist means inputting the data after

Carrie-what we didn't know before we know a whole lot more about now. Teachers have a pretty good grasp on their ELTs but now wrestle with the assessments. It is about the refinement of working

in a PBL system. It gets better as you work through it. It is more about personal practice now rather than trying to figure out what they need to do.

Julie-wonder if special ed/ELL proficiency has been resolved yet?

Megan-teachers need to align their work with their ELT. Using backward design to look at student work.

Julie-advice for HS teachers.. They hear common assessments and think common instruction. It is about the common rigor and how you get there is your own way. The other piece is teachers being positive. They need to buy in.

Kim-thinking about capacity we have done some good things when middle school teachers have come to high school to speak. How do we grow that capacity so we are not always tapping the same MS teachers? What will be added to the plate of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to make sure they are okay as they become the experts at the high school.

### **Role of the Pb-L Steering Committee in Meeting Challenges of Next Steps**

What is this group's role in helping to lift that work?

Ken-we need to expand this group to include students and additional parents.

Teri-being able to reflect on common problems and concerns. Brainstorming and communication.

There are common threads across grade spans. How can we communicate in the best way with parents and students?

Megan-directing the work and prioritizing the resources. She felt like we did some good work mapping out our direction and what tasks needed to be done.

Kim-people are now talking about 2 different systems (IC and Jumprope) There is a concern that it is Jumprope versus Proficiency.

Sarah-creation of the resources that can help remediate some of the philosophical differences.

Creation of publicity.

Heidi-there has been a gap for parents. They are looking for more information.

Mary-we do need to get more students and parents involved. They become the conduit for the information.

Ken-we know we need to do more work at the high school but we are not solid with the plan for 16-17 and 17-18 so we have hesitated. This is starting to be a barrier.

Does this group work on the high school messaging or is it the high school that does that work?

Sarah-it would be great to get some of the current 9<sup>th</sup> graders to speak to the work they have done.

Would not like to see us move away from the messaging.

Ken-we want to continue to use this group around "how we message"

This group needs to hear what the high school plan is and provide feedback.

We have a few students that we would like to add as well as a few parents.

Mary-what is the timeline for the high school next year? We need to make that decision. There is still discussion at the high school and we need to wrap this up soon.

Next Meeting: Adding new members, review of SPHS plan for 2016-17