

GUARD Committee Meeting Notes
8:30-10:30am, October 21, 2010

Attending: Michelle Abernathy, John Kane-Ronning, Kenn Robinson, Keith Schacht, Nicole Talley, Tom Venable and Brian Rick.

Meeting times for 2010-11

Third Thursday of each month from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 200. November meeting is on Early Release. With conferences and holidays November 18 meeting is on hold. Brian will see if any work can be done via email before the December 16 meeting.

Review of committee membership

- District office representatives updated.
- Webpage updated to comply with committee format defined by Tanya.

Review committee purpose and work plan

- Discussed if or should “district-wide” assessments include “common core” assessments? What is the scope of GUARD’s advisory role? Does GUARD have a role supporting and advising classroom level assessments?
- Keith stated a need for clear expectations and accountability for common course objectives and assessments at high school.
- Considered advantages and disadvantages to buying standardized tests versus using our own teaching core expertise to create assessments.
- Michelle brought up the difficulty in developing common assessments without a common core curriculum. A common district understanding and common district expectations are needed.
- Vocabulary issues even with simple terms. Does common core assessment mean common assessments of the core curriculum within each content area? Or is it comprehensive common assessments only in core curricular content areas?
- Michelle asked committee to consider including common core assessments within the purpose of the GUARD committee.
- Brian reminded committee that we make recommendations to the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent and are not a working group of the Curriculum department. He is concerned about taking on too much under the name of assessment and weakening our understanding of the teaching-learning cycle that is essential work for Curriculum and Instruction.

Next Steps

- Brian will work with Curriculum staff to develop a district-wide glossary of key terms around standards and assessment.
- Brian will meet with Jim to discuss how GUARD’s recommendations could help support his work – what we can do from his perspective. Following that, Brian will review statements of our committee’s purpose with Greg or Karst to review our purpose and work plan for this year.

Discuss district assessment changes in 2010-11

- Policy and Procedures for RtI not complete, but RtI assessments were adjusted this fall by Jim and Nicole with feedback from Brian and RtI committee.

- Reviewed District Assessment Schedule, Assessments by Grade and Type, and Assessment Changes 2010-11. Michelle said Universal Screening for Reading needs clarification and suggested the main schedule document direct readers to the Grade and Type document. She also suggested Curriculum add the revised date to all docs so readers know if they are working with the most current version.
- Not known where Title I assessment data is stored or how shared. Discussed if we could blend this into district data for district-wide reporting using some conversion process.
- Nicole and John shared discussions from RtI and Title meetings about Title I Assessments being supplemental, not supplanting, district assessments.

Next Steps

- Assessment documents will be updated
- RtI policy, procedures and guidance remains in the hands of the RtI committee. Each committee needs to know what the other is doing so they can build on it.

Data access and warehouse update

- Brian is working with John Getchell to include HSPE, MSP, WLPT and MAP in Zangle test history module.
- John K. shared that Read 180 is used in grades 4, 5 and middle school; SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory) is the assessment. Discussed whether SRI should be in Zangle? If so, we need to consider data entry, data integrity and Parent Connect ramifications. Are there other common assessments used for RtI that should go into Zangle? If not Zangle, how do we improve access for more frequent assessment data like RtI?
- For 2009-10, consensus from Ron, John and Brian was that the data warehouse needed staffing commitment and work was put on hold; issue brought forward to CAT.
- Earlier this fall, Greg and Karst asked for meeting to introduce current and possible data warehousing solutions, including WSIPC's WEDSS system.
- Kenn stated that counselors need better data access to work on graduation rate and interventions. Nicole stated that teachers need easy way to access to profiles of students.

Next steps

- John K. will look into how Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark data is stored.
- Future of RtI assessments needs to be stabilized before a decision whether to add them to Zangle.
- Next steps for warehousing and access not yet determined.

Wrap Up

What are key components for this year? What do we need to do our work?

- Michelle: RtI assessments, Core assessments, Curriculum. Data issue in general – access to data, something that is meaningful to staff, can show trends.
- Kenn: How do we measure ourselves outside of ourselves, beyond just internal district benchmarks or expectations?
- John: Data – what are we assessing, user friendly data warehouse. As teacher, expectations should be similar across schools.
- Nicole: Duplicity of assessments, interact with RtI. Purpose, data storage and access.
- Brian: Common understanding, common terminology/glossary. Purpose for each assessment.

- Tom: Access to information, measure progress/performance, make it as easy as email. What's in Zangle is what we value? That's what it looks like to parents. Good Practice – what's being used in assessing/evaluating student not some separate thing. Read 180 used when student is at Alderwood, student transfers to Cozier and Read 180 doesn't show up anymore? Parents don't know why.

Next Steps

- November committee meeting on hold (early release day) – Brian will determine if some committee work can be done via e-mail.
- Jody will update committee web page and have it shifted to active status.
- All members will have meeting dates in their schedules:
 - October 21
 - ~~November 18~~ (canceled)
 - December 16
 - January 20
 - February 17
 - March 17
 - April 21
 - May 19
 - June 16

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 16, 8:30 – 10:30 am in Room 200, District Office. Special guest: Dr. Baker.