

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM
35 WHEELBARROW LANE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mrs. Maisano, Mr. DeNuzzo, Mrs. DePalma,
Mr. Hennessey Mrs. Kluth, Mr. Palladino and
Mr. Pompano, Mr. Scalesse

ABSENT: Mrs. Vineyard

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Serio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Meoli, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Forti, Assist. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Acquarulo, Director of Pupil Services

1. OPEN MEETING

- 2. Data Showcase Rounds in EHHS Foyer (6:00 – 6:30 p.m.)** The BOE visited the 2nd annual East Haven Data Showcase. The data boards were put together by data teams from across the district. The boards reflected a variety of topics and demonstrated how teachers use the data team process to monitor student growth and progress throughout the year. Each school has a school-level data team and a number of grade-level data teams. The district is planning on re-establishing their district-level data team so that all levels of data are analyzed and used for teaching, curricular and strategy decisions to increase the overall performance of East Haven students.

Mrs. DePalma reconvened the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. in the Boardroom at East Haven High School.

3. Center for 21st Century “Moodle” Courses at EHHS

EHHS has run its first series of courses through the “Moodle” on-line dynamic learning environment. This environment is changing how we approach teaching and learning. Through the efforts of teachers expanding their own skills for the improvement of student learning, EHHS has moved into the 21st Century. Jay Miles (Video/DDM3), Gladys Knudsen (Bio21-Biotechnology), Marianne Adinolfi (e-Commerce and Entrepreneurship) and Nancy Tipping (Medical Careers) have taught the above courses and succeeded in incorporating this new technology into their classroom practices to create a blended learning environment.

Bio 21 students were challenged to develop a nanotechnology-based solution to a problem. Our students competed against five Connecticut schools and were awarded Outstanding Prototype for their design using Graphene molecules as a bulletproof feature added to a Speedo sharkskin swimsuit. Graphene, derived from graphite, is an incredibly strong molecule and very light. This product was marketed as light-weight, underwater armor for Navy Seals. These students were also awarded Outstanding Presentation for their "elevator pitch" of their idea, design and website.

E-Commerce and Entrepreneurship students were challenged to create an online business that had a "green" theme. The business that the students created was "Green Golf Balls On-Line". The team conducted market research, wrote a business plan, created an organizational chart, calculated start-up costs, created a webpage, advertised the business through a commercial which the students wrote, acted in and filmed themselves, created and printed tri-fold brochures and business cards, set up a display booth at the Expo and delivered a three minute "elevator pitch" to a panel of judges to convince them to invest in their start-up. This team was awarded Outstanding Website greengolfballsonline.com.

Medical Career Foundation students through 21st Century Foundation of Health Science Technology curriculum were challenged to create a high-tech hospital of the future. They were awarded Outstanding Marketing Multimedia and Outstanding Exhibition Booth for their efforts.

4. Title IID STEM Grant

The BOE was informed that the district was awarded the Title IID Technology Grant to run the STEM lab and STEM competition at JMMS next year. Collective efforts by Randel Osborne, Marilee Noonan and Erica Forti have provided for \$140,000 in grant funding to purchase hardware and software to transform JMMS into a 21st Century learning environment and create a seamless 6-12 STEM alignment. **Erica Forti discussed the ban width issue and informed the BOE that they will be hearing some short-term solutions to this problem from Randel Osborne at their next meeting.** The solution will enable the POS system, PowerSchool, and all technology related to STEM (Google sketch-up, laptop carts, note pads, student response systems...) to function at a speed that is efficient enough so that it does not frustrate students and staff.

5. SRBI District Strategic Plan

Erica Forti, and Joanne Manginelli from ACES, presented the process and collaborative practices East Haven engaged in to develop their SRBI Strategic Plan that will be submitted to the CSDE on July 1, 2010. The plan was developed using qualitative perception data collected by a large number of staff members. The SRBI strategic team used the feedback from staff to identify areas of momentum to use as the on-ramp to develop those areas in need of improvement. **The plan will be placed on the next BOE meeting agenda for BOE approval.** Erica Forti was invited to share East Haven's process of strategic planning with the CSDE SRBI leadership team as a model for how districts should be planning. The plan is divided into three parts each with its own strategies and desired outcomes. Highlights of the plan include:

Collaborative Strategic Decision-Making

- Data Teams
- Technology

Teaching and Learning

- School Culture and Climate/Positive Behavior Supports
- Differentiation
- Targeted Instructional Block for Tier II and Tier III Support
- Standards-Based Grade Reporting

Assessment

- Universal Common Assessments
- Progress Monitoring

6. Review and Discussion of New Courses for EHHS

The BOE reviewed the new courses appearing in the program of studies for the 2010-2011 school year at EHHS. The purpose of creating the new courses was to offer students more elective courses in the content areas. **The courses will appear on the next BOE agenda for final approval.**

Mr. Palladino stated his concern was that they were putting a lot of things in place which is great but were they following up to see what was working and what was not working. He would like to be informed as to what they are doing is working, what is not working, and what we are doing to improve that or going to Plan B. Mrs. Manginelli responded that at a key point during the year you have to stop and say how much did we do, how well did we do it and is anybody better off. If you can't respond in positive ways to all three of these, you have to look at how you are implementing what the strategies are and that is the beauty of the whole thing.

Mrs. Maisano asked how will parents become aware of all of these programs for their children. How do they know once their child is receiving all of these wonderful accolades, how do they get word of how they are doing? Mrs. Forti stated PowerSchool helps with that making better use of our website. It is our responsibility to make it happen and to do it. It was our responsibility to communicate to parents at home about progress reports regarding their children over the weeks.

Mrs. Kluth asked if this was something that would start in September. Mrs. Forti stated it starts in September and spans all the way to 2015. Mrs. Kluth asked if there was any way before starts if they could have an Informational Night for the elementary, middle school, and high school parents. You have done a lot of work and they should know what you are doing. Mr. Palladino suggested Mrs. Forti do a presentation that was similar to what she had done here this evening and put it on the East Haven television network. Mr. Palladino would also like to see a Press Release in the Register. Mrs. Forti suggested they could also put a Data Team meeting on television.

Mrs. DePalma stated Mrs. Forti had started this process a long time ago and she was not afraid to jump in. That's why she is a role model for the State. That says a lot. You guys are volumes ahead of us.

Mrs. Forti stated it was through the collective efforts of all of the people across the district that participated in this SRBI work and took the surveys. People followed through and analyzed the data. Mrs. Forti stated that Mrs. Acquarulo has been very helpful in blending the lines between Special Ed and Regular Ed students.

Mr. Palladino suggested Mrs. Forti look into the possibility of having a column in the newspaper so people could read the facts instead of the opinion we get from the reporter. Mr. Serio suggested it was easier to get something in the Courier because it was tough to get something in the Register.

Mrs. Forti stated good things were happening here. She thanked her colleagues, Central Office, the Board and ACES.

7. Any other business that might rightfully come before this subcommittee.

There was no other business this evening.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Maisano and seconded by Mrs. Kluth. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**MRS. PATRICIA DEPALMA, CHAIRPERSON
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE**