

Report on the District Goals for the 2015-16 Academic Year

July 2016

1. To develop a uniform methodology for the Response to Intervention process.

A committee of teachers, supervisors, SACs, and school psychologists from across the district met to develop district-wide guidelines for the Response to Intervention (RTI) program.

The committee's mission was to create a manual that:

- Would provide timelines for the RTI process.
- Ensure universal and standardized screening.
- Provide resources and access to interventions.
- Develop grade level letters for parental notification for Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions.
- Establish guidelines and time frames for progress monitoring.
- Include behavioral component to the RTI program.

The committee:

- Met on December 7, 2015 to review published materials and current practice.
- Met and worked as a committee for the full day on January 27, 2016 to develop the manual.
- Met in small groups and worked individually before and after the January 27 meeting.
- Presented a draft of the manual to the superintendent on February 17.
- Met in March to review and edit the final draft.
- Presented the draft to the administrators in April and then finalized the document.
- The RTI manual was shared with the Board of Education in May.
- The IT Department had put all forms and materials on-line for faculty use.
- Will present the manual to their colleagues at the opening day faculty meeting.

2. To finalize a district-wide study to determine a more efficient organization of the district schools.

- In August 2015, the Board met to review the plan for the reorganization of the district schools.
- A Superintendent's Roundtable was held September 29, 2015 to present the reorganization plan. An afternoon meeting was held for faculty and staff. An evening meeting was held for the community at-large.

- The Board approved at the October 19, 2015 meeting the creation of a Middle School at Union School for grades 7 and 8 and an Upper Elementary School at Pierrepont for grades 4-6 commencing in September 2016.
- In December 2015, the Board approved the creation of Preschool to be housed at Washington School and Lincoln School commencing in September 2016.
- There have been ongoing school and community committee meetings to develop curriculum, staffing, programs, and transportation.
- The Superintendent working with the Child Study Team developed programs that will allow students to remain in district in the least restrictive environment. The Board approved the ABA Preschool and a Multiply Disabled Middle School program in March.
- A Therapeutic Program, “Pathways to Success” was developed and presented to the Board in May.

3. To standardize the use of benchmark assessments as a means of monitoring student progress and improving student achievement.

- The schools used LinkIt for benchmark assessments and data management.
- Kindergarten and Grade 1 did two benchmarks (Winter and Spring)
- Grades 3-8 did benchmark assessments three times a year (September, Winter and Spring)
- In Grades K-8, benchmark assessments are given quarterly in Language Arts Literacy and Math.
- In Grade 9-12, benchmark assessments are given quarterly in all subject areas. LinkIt is used in LAL and Math and in some of the other disciplines.
- Benchmark assessments are used to establish Student Growth Objectives (SGO), SGO tiers, Response to Intervention (RTI) tiers, and to target instruction levels.
- Prior to this year, benchmark assessments were done differently in each school.

Although historically, this report focuses on District Goals, it should be noted that the Board Goals were met as well.

1. To develop a strategic plan to enable the enhancement and expansion of curriculum and the maintenance and improvement of facilities.

- The Board has established a Strategic Planning Committee.
- One meeting of the committee was held in the fall and another will be scheduled for August.
- The principals have submitted their vision for their schools.
- The Superintendent plans to make long-term strategic planning a goal for him in 2016-17.

2. To successfully negotiate the contract with the REA prior to the current contract end date of June 30, 2016.

- The BOE's negotiations committee and the full Board met to discuss negotiations.
- The Board contracted Mr. Ray Wiss, an attorney, to facilitate the negotiations.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was signed on June 23, 2016.
- Details of the contract are being finalized.

3. To identify and implement strategies to improve communication and visibility throughout the community.

- The superintendent scheduled Roundtables and Coffee Hours.
- The video of Board Meetings was posted on the district's website which will provide easier access for the community.
- School presentations and student recognition nights were planned for Board meetings.

4. To revise the structure of meetings, allow more time for discussion, analysis, and community interaction.

- The schedule of meetings was revised.