

H.S. Graduation Task Force
11/23/15
LOB Room 1E

Attendance: Chairman Joseph Cirusuolo, Commissioner Dianna Wentzell, Mary-Anne Butler, Karissa Niehoff, Patrice McCarthy, Tom Marak, Susan Bell, Ed Leavy, Paul Stringer
CAPSS Staff Executive Assistant, Dana Finello

I. Call to Order: Dr. Cirusuolo called the meeting to order at 2:10pm and introductions were done.

II. Review of Minutes from Nov 9, 2015 – Unanimously approved.

III. Presentations

Karissa Niehoff from CAS introduced three students, Alexandra Prendergast – Danbury H.S, Dante Solano – Meriden H.S. and Sean Hackett – Guilford H.S., who serve on the state student advisory council who presented their opinions and views on some HS graduation requirement issues to the task force. —Among the issues on which they gave their perspective were world language and the student demonstration portfolio.

It was mentioned that the trip to Pittsfield, NH is still on for Dec 3 and so far 8 people will be in attendance. Dana indicated that she would email the attendees the hotel links and NH agenda again.

The committee reached a consensus that a new deadline -of 2/15/16 should be requested for the final report..

IV. Topics

The committee briefly discussed the following topics with comments, questions and concerns and for the report.

1. 21st Century Skills

Among the points made by various task force members were the following.

- Students are now using academic skills, technology and the observation of adults in the process of learning how to make their own presentations.
- A variety of pathways for students acquire knowledge and skills should be established by districts
- Graduation requirements should be aligned with how schools can w better equip students to be prepared for success after high school.

- Time constraints need to be revised to allow for flexibility.
- Choices need to be implemented.

2. The Relationship Between CT Core Standards and Mastery-Based Personalized Learning Platform

Among the points made by various task force members were the following.

- The end of course assessments should be eliminated.
- Personalized learning requires more coaching and support for some students than others
- The role of teachers needs to be revised.

Identification of Other Topics at 12/8/15 Meeting

The committee agreed to address the definition of credit at its next meeting.

Given the need for more discussion and thought, it was decided unanimously that the Dec 8, 2015 meeting will be revised to 3 hours with the following agenda

- 1pm-2pm. Social Studies presentation
- 2-3pm; David Ruff from Great Schools Partnership
- 3-4 pm discussion focused on the definition of credit.

Dr. Cirsuolo adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.