



**Racine Unified School District**  
3109 Mt. Pleasant Street, Racine, Wisconsin, 53404

**RACINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WORK SESSION**

---

Dennis Wisner, President

Gretchen L. Warner, Clerk

---

Racine, Wisconsin

August 5, 2013

---

A Special Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin began at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2013, with the following members present: Michael Frontier, Pamala Handrow, Julie L. McKenna, Kim Plache, and Dennis Wisner. Absent: Chris Eperjesy, Melvin Hargrove, Don J. Nielsen, and Gretchen L. Warner.

Also present: Lolli Haws, Superintendent; Steve Miller, Director, Standards, Assessment and Accountability; Eric Gallien, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, and Darlene Gallup, Executive Assistant.

The purpose of the meeting was a work session. No action was taken by the Board.

**1. Results – 2 (Academic Achievement- Reading)**

Dr. Miller provided an overview of the Results -2 (Academic Achievement-Reading) Monitoring Report. Major points of Dr. Miller's presentation included discussion about:

- NCLB changes (Targets)
- Explanation and comparisons of revised Cut Scores
- Data table changes (Including planned inclusion of data tables from individual schools)
- Reasonable progress status
- State progress and RUSD progress comparisons
- Value added growth and estimate (Past Academic Year and Up-to-3 Year Average)

Board Recommendations/Suggestions/Concerns included:

- Comment: In fall, Public Policy Forum will provide extensive data at Wingspread. Monitoring Report data should be included as graphs and charts. Explanations should be included as attachments or attach the Scorecard that it was all pulled from.
- Comment: Line graphs are preferred over bar graphs when possible
- Comment: If the board needs to give the superintendent direction, that can be done after the board votes on the presentation at the August board business meeting.
- This report will be used by the superintendent to gauge reasonable progress.
- Comment: The North Star trajectory will need to be adjusted to align with the new targets (Work of the Guiding Coalition)

- Capacity Building (Presented by Christopher Thompson, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction; and Jane Barbian, Coordinator, Reading/Language Arts – Elementary)

Major points of presentation and discussion included:

- Strategies for Improvement
- Universal Core English Language Arts (Instructional Design) Absolutes, Kindergarten – Grade 6

- Development of classroom “walkthroughs”
- Board Recommendations/Suggestions/Concerns included:
- Discussions: Concerns about too much sensory input; students labeled and kept at that level instead of moving forward, individual learning plans
  - How will you measure if the absolutes are working? Daily classroom measurements by teachers and MAP tests; walkthroughs by administration; accountability checks by administration; and principals are being coached on how to measure progress
  - Comment: There are other supports that can be available but changes to the Employee Handbook would need to be adjusted first
  - Is there an accountability expectation for principals? Yes, including administrative meetings with principals to review their progress in the absolutes
  - Principals will be expected rather than encouraged to make progress through use of the absolutes and will be expected to provide feedback on what resources they need to succeed
  - Would like to see the absolutes included in all of the Results Monitoring Reports

**2. Operational Expectations – 11 (Learning Environment-Discipline)**

Dr. Haws said the responsibility of OE-11 has now been shifted to Dr. Gallien.

Dr. Gallien presented an overview this partially completed report. Major points of his presentation included:

- Review of data on student expulsions and suspensions
- Plan of Action

Board Recommendations/Suggestions/Concerns included:

- The board will need to discuss whether to have this on the Annual Planning Calendar in October for a summary of indications and interpretations and where they are going with the report or whether to wait a year for a full report in August
- The board also needs to discuss the compliance or noncompliance for both the report itself and for the results (information) of the report
- Would like to see the rules reviewed about how superintendent expectation is actioned by the board

The session ended at 7:58 p.m.