

**SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Excellence in Student (EISA) Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 2, 2018**  
**Sanborn Regional High School**  
**4:15 PM**

**In attendance:** Pam Brown, Larry Heath, Tammy Mahoney, Superintendent Ambrose, Curriculum Director Turmelle.

Meeting called to order by Dr. Brown at 4:17 pm. Committee members nominated and unanimously approved Ms. Mahoney to serve as Chair of EISA. Minutes of the 1/24/18 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Results of “Profile of a Graduate” Survey were reviewed. Survey contained questions about the qualities and measures the district might use to define a “successful” Sanborn graduate. 170 thoughtful and detailed responses were received from a variety of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers and other district employees and community members, primarily from towns of Kingston, Newton and Fremont. Survey respondents emphasized three broad characteristics important for “successful” graduates: academic skills/knowledge, practical skills (e.g. managing a checking account, job interviewing, computer literacy, time management) and soft skills (e.g. empathy, team work, community service). Mr. Turmelle noted some the assessments selected as important by Survey respondents are recognized NH state benchmarks of success (SAT) while others are not (ACT). He also noted that successful completion of dual enrollment courses are more important to colleges and universities than are AP classes. Mr. Turmelle suggested we arrange focus groups with our local businesses and also schedule visits to admissions offices at regional universities to learn more about private-sector needs and post-secondary expectations. The Survey will be discussed further and a decision made about re-releasing the Survey (to increase our observations) at next meeting. Superintendent Ambrose will include a summary of Survey’s preliminary results in his June board presentation.

Committee discussion turned to alternative paths for measuring student success in an individualized but meaningful way. In addition to traditional exam-based assessments, demonstration of hands-on reading and writing, practical math skills and “way-finding abilities” were agreed important. Mr. Turmelle said these core skills may be observed using a capstone project or “exhibition” in which seniors present their individualized work portfolio to an evaluating group which would include members from commerce and community outside the district. The concept, called a “Defense of Work,” is analogous to a dissertation defense and has been implemented nationally by several districts. Mr. Turmelle forwarded a link to [www.PortraitofaGraduate.com](http://www.PortraitofaGraduate.com), the research organization which has worked to perfect the assessment model. It will be discussed at next meeting. Committee members supported Mr. Ambrose’s suggestion that we invite teachers to the next EISA meeting.