

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, NH 03458-1197

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 16, 2016
SAU Boardroom
5:00 PM

MINUTES

Committee Members:

Crista Salamy – Chair, Linda Quintanilha, Fiona Tibbetts, Rich Cahoon, Gary Backstrom

Committee Members Present: Crista Salamy, Rich Cahoon, Linda Quintanilha

Others Present: Kimberly Saunders, Marian Alese, Myron Steere, Jerome Wilson, Richard Dunning, Pierce Rigrod, Carol Young, Dana Wood, John Reitnauer, Brian Grattan, Helfried Zrzavy, Jonathan White, Sarah Hale, Gib West, Brian Pickering

Crista Salamy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Approval of January 11, 2016 Minutes – 5 minutes

Rich Cahoon moved to accept the minutes. Second. Unanimous.

2. High school program of studies (new courses) --- 30 minutes

Carol Young, Science Department Chair, and Dana Wood, Science Teacher, spoke about offering “Sustainable Agriculture” as a Fall & Spring New Course Proposal. The course would be very hands on; planting, transplanting, water management, harvesting, etc. Content standards were outlined. Environmental Science tends to be undersubscribed. At the same time, Earth Science, as a required course, includes many topics that Environmental Science covers. There is a slight overlap.

A Community Support Agricultural group is developing along with “Seeds of Community”. This would meet the needs in many areas.

Carol Young said that seed propagation requires greenhouse space. Farmer John and Seeds of Community are applying for a grant that, if funded, will allow a greenhouse to be built. A portion of that greenhouse would be available to students. The advantage of working with Seeds of Community is their strength with grant writing and community connections.

Myron Steere spoke about the potential of a plastic roll greenhouse donation.

Rich Cahoon asked if there is a build or purchase greenhouse proposal being asked. The reply was that there is not.

Would this be a running start program? It is not at this point. Running Start Programs tie to specific curriculum. Locally based curriculum is a desire.

To what extent is this program viable dependent on the program starting across the street? If the program were to fold, they are committed with a ten year lease on the land. It is substantial enough to get us off the ground. Other options would have to be looked at beyond several years out.

Budget wise, reprioritization will be required within the science budget.

Crista Salamy said that CSA's tend to come and go. Is the UNH Cooperative being worked with? Dana Wood confirmed that talks are underway to collaborate.

Tractors and other major equipment will be provided by Farmer John's. Liability will be covered.

Richard Dunning asked if the SMS Greenhouse is part of this consideration. Carol Young shared that discussion about moving the greenhouse to the high school has occurred minimally. Further discussion with SMS would be needed.

Dick Dunning asked why it couldn't be a joint venture with the middle and high school. Mr. Dunning further said that it was purchased with grant monies for specific purpose. It is a facility that should remain at SMS and could be further maximized between the two schools.

Crista Salamy asked who will monitor during summer months. Dana Wood said that Farmer John and his assistant would monitor.

Rich Cahoon moved to recommend the program. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Mr. Reitnauer said that the ATC Agreement, which has been with the State since October, should be finalized. He hopes that by April 1st this is signed and in place. The regional agreement is for 20 years.

Further, John Reitnauer shared a Fire Science/Fire Fighter 1/EMT Proposal. The EMT piece is on the back burner.

Within the past month, Mascenic decided to no longer fund the Fire Fighter 1 program for the upcoming 2016/2017 school year, to enable the program to move to another center. Mr. Reitnauer said that he is here to request that this program be moved to ConVal. The Peterborough Fire Department requested that the ATC consider offering the Fire Science/Fire Fighter 1/EMT program because there is a need in the community as well as support from the Peterborough and surrounding Fire Departments to continue to sponsor ConVal students in this program. With approval to move forward, Mr. Reitnauer would ask that the Fire Science/Firefighter 1 program be implemented next year using Perkins Grant funds. The Fire Science/EMT portion could follow in the following year. In the first few years, it would be Perkins and not local funding until 2018/2019. Anticipated enrollment would be 12-15 students.

Myron Steere spoke about the potential that towns be approached to conduct the training to allow for funding.

John Reitnauer said that towns are heavily invested in the Firefighter 1 program now.

Firefighter 1 is \$9,600 per year and EMT \$13,000 per year. Perkins Grant funds would cover both for several years but not indefinitely. .

Rich Cahoon said that it is twice as much and he asked why. John said that this involves a college set up; eligible for transfer of hours in a program.

Fire Academy is covered by both the State and the Fire Academy program.

How many ConVal students? It would be opened to Jaffrey-Rindge as well. The program at Mascenic has not had a lot of students involved. Students were self-transporting. Having a program onsite has the potential to drive enrollment upward. Fifteen would be the maximum number of students. Marian Alese asked the minimum; the reply was five would be a good start up number.

A teacher would not be hired for this position. Mr. Reitnauer would work to secure sub-contractors.

Space would be needed to offer this program. Reclaiming of space would be reviewed.

Rich Cahoon said that he was in favor of sending this to SAC for their buy-in and acknowledgement that the district is picking up this part of the funding for the towns.

Crista Salamy recommended that the application process move forward to the state. It doesn't mean that the program is approved.

Second. Unanimous.

3. Technology Committee presentation --- 30 minutes

Access and accessibility is one part that needs to be resolved in the technology plan.

Helfried Zrzavy, Sarah Hale, and Jonathan White were present. Brian Grattan thanked them for their work done on the proposal.

Anytime/Anywhere Learning Powered by One to One Computing presentation was shared.

When students have access to technology teachers can build their instruction around it. Digitized learning and teaching has been the shift for some time.

Purpose = equity, access, and to provide digital age learning environments

Implementation Plan – 16/17 will include an assessment and upgrade of the wireless infrastructure, Professional Development for 1:1 classrooms. No devices will be required in year one. 17/18 will be a year to monitor and adjust, conduct regular staff meetings with embedded coaching, and devices will be included.

Cost estimates were shared – year one totals \$65,400, year 2 ranges from \$235,200 to \$317,100, and year 3 \$206,000 to \$304,000.

Sarah Hale reported on the anticipated outcomes. Equity in access to devices and tools allows students to step away from stationary learning. A shift in instructional practices allows for teachers to think about what it means for their instructional practice. It is a blend of classroom instruction and digital learning.

The evaluation cycle would include the establishment of baseline data on equity, access, and digital age learning opportunities before implementation and then gathering data on equity, access, and digital age learning opportunities every year thereafter.

For those that do not have connectivity in the home, work is being done with a consortium to bring broadband to more homes. Within the schools control, work with local libraries to accommodate students after school will be conducted.

Is the Chromebook the best or least expensive device for 1:1 learning? Brian Grattan said that it is the perfect fit and is cost wise. Chromebooks are a web based tool and that is where much of the learning occurs. Labs would be maintained. iPads would be used as well.

Jerome Wilson asked if students would be given a device for a period of years and turned in. The cycle was discussed.

Brian Grattan said that a clean wipe can bring a device back to normal. Maintenance is less than a PC. In terms of breakage; an insurance policy is taken out on the devices. Parents can either use the insurance or foot the bill for a broken device. It is estimated that the district would have to pick up 60% of the insurance costs. A device will stay within the school. Devices will rotate within a school.

Based on various options, aging one grade out to allow extended life of devices to level the funding from one year to the next is planned.

Marian Alese reported that we spend \$200,000 now for replacement; it is not significantly different.

Gib West said that online versions of textbooks would result in an offset savings.

Rich Cahoon asked if option 1 is too big, two other options were shared. He urged everyone to look at option 2 and not 3. Rich would like to see the Education Committee recommend an option to the board. Leaving it open for decision while the world changes rapidly was suggested.

Rich Cahoon urged a recommendation of Option 2.

An indication of whether or not we are moving in this direction or going back to the drawing board is needed.

Dick Dunning supported the recommendation. Rich Cahoon said that everyone on the board has had at least one year. He urged a recommendation now.

Linda Quintanilha moved to recommend Option 2. Second. Unanimous. This will be brought to the board tonight.

4. Sports participation update --- 10 minutes

Athletic Participation numbers were shared.

Updated numbers for participation are exactly the same as last year. Up in the fall, 16 below in the winter. From a percentage standpoint, we are slightly up because enrollment is slightly down. Spring signups are coming. Physical contact sports numbers are declining.

Unified Sports helps the numbers as well.

Linda Quintanilha moved to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok