

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

September 18, 2017

GBS Library

5:30 PM

MINUTES

Committee Members:

Crista Salamy - Chair, Bernd Foecking, Janine Lesser, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly, Pierce Rigrod

Committee Members Present: Crista Salamy (5:59), Bernd Foecking, Janine Lesser, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly, Pierce Rigrod

Others Present: Kimberly Saunders, Ann Forrest, Dorene Decibus, Myron Steere, Rich Cahoon

5:30 Approval of August 28, 2017 Minutes

Janine Lesser moved to accept the minutes of August 28, 2017. Bernd Foecking second. Unanimous.

5:35 Review of Science Content Part II (Grades 5-12)

Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 1.1.3 The School District will perform a review of the Science content and instruction, and then revise curriculum and professional practices based on research and/or the analysis of CVSD student data.

Dorene Decibus reported on science at the middle schools. This summer, the K-12 committee met and looked at the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and aligned with curriculum. Collaboration with the Harris Center in the life science piece took place. Standards were added to grade 6,7, 8 with a focus on science. A full year of earth science at 6th grade, physical science at 7th grade, and life science at 8th grade. Alignments were made to better support the various grades and age of students. Identification of resources and materials needed at each grade level is the next step. An inventory of materials is needed to assure each grade has what is needed.

Common assessments, for each unit, are needed district wide. Units are under development. Common units between both middle schools is important. The cycle begins all over again in the ninth grade.

Ann Forrest reported that this group did a lot of work over the summer on alignment. Inventory is critical so that a recommendation can come forward.

Linda Quintanilha asked that a footnote be marked to look at this in three years. If our students are doing well this might be why.

6:00 Fees in the ConVal School District (Part II)

Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 1.5.3 Students will have multiple opportunities for flexible, personalized learning.

Linda Quintanilha asked the committee for an overall thought of where we are at in terms of fees.

Janine thought that we should align with the policy or change the policy. She said that the policy was solid. Janine reported receiving an email from a parent who thought students were doing less in terms of field trips. Kimberly Saunders said that the value of field trips has been looked at.

Janine said that aligning field trips as an enhancement to curriculum is important and we should pay for them.

What about athletics? Janine said that she thought there should be no fees for athletics.

Bernd Foecking said that the policy is sound. He would like an equitable way to cover students who cannot afford to attend overnight field trips. For athletics, he thinks everyone should be able to participate, but said a cap might be instilled.

Pierce Rigrod said that athletic participation remained about the same from when fees were charged compared to when we did not. The fees for athletics could be raised or we could pay partial. He supported that academic fees be paid for by the district.

It was said that it is clear that there are various differences in the level of success for students at different socio-economic classes. Students are more successful when they have the opportunity to access clubs and athletics.

Linda Quintanilha spoke about the cost of the Washington, D.C. trips and the fundraising that was required to offset the cost. It is difficult in some communities.

Kristen Reilly said that we should pay for field trips for curriculum. Kristen spoke about a possible sliding scale for other fees.

Ann Forrest said that her concern about NHDI is that it happens during an intervention period. If you are struggling as a learner, that is not an option for you. If we are going to fund something, it should be truly available for all kids to be a part of.

Linda Quintanilha said that no fees should be charged for anything.

Kimberly Saunters said that she would like a definition of what is considered as "extended".

She said that most of our activities should be paid. She goes back and forth on athletic fees.

Athletics are important but not all sports are created equal. She thinks that kids should pay for extended field trips and sliding scale by the type of sport.

Crista Salamy said that everything should be covered with things except roller skating. She added that the Washington, DC trip should be covered.

Pierce Rigrod asked what would be done about fundraising. Would we do no more? It is not an insignificant amount of money. If the district wants to be liable for all of this, we no longer need fundraising to do this.

Janine Lesser asked if fundraising is coordinated among groups? No. She suggested that the fundraising be focused.

If it is part of curriculum it should be paid was the consensus.

Steve worried about kids who cannot afford to go to Washington. He cited fundraising campaigns that are demeaning to students.

A suggestion was to have a district-wide fundraising campaign across the district.

Janine Lesser spoke about partnerships with outside organizations to fundraise.

Pierce Rigrod ran the alternative – what is broken now? How do we know people are not participating?

Kimberly Saunders said that at one point the board asked to prioritize fees. Administration took issue with fees that limit access to participation. The decision was that athletic fees would be waived and participation would be reviewed. We looked at the data. Then discussion took place about not charging fees for athletics but we were for academic fees.

Pierce Rigrod spoke about covering the increment that was not covered and having the district pay that portion.

Linda Quintanilha spoke about excuses students will give not to participate because they know they cannot afford to go on a trip or other activity.

Pierce Rigrod moved to recommend to the full board that the district cover athletics, curriculum based activities, with exclusion of NHDI and Washington Trip.

Linda Quintanilha said that we should cover everything except the trips abroad.

Pierce Rigrod withdrew his motion.

Bernd Foecking asked how much we currently are waiving.

Kimberly Saunders reported many elementary school PTO's cover it.

K-12 totals \$214,194.00; this is the number under discussion. \$64,000 and \$77,000 each at GBS and SMS.

Kristen Reilly moved to recommend that \$214,194.00 be covered by the district. Myron said that the committee should be prepared to discuss each item. The items that the PTO cover would increase the dollar amount required.

Crista Salamy said that if not charging a fee allows student participation then we should not charge.

Ann Forrest asked what the categories were so that what is being covered and what is not should be clearly identified. The next layer might be day field trips, reward field trips, extended field trips, international field trips, athletic fees.

Kristen Reilly withdrew her motion.

Linda Quintanilha moved that all fees pertaining to school sponsored curriculum based fees be covered by the district i.e. AP testing, Running Start etc.

Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Athletic fees – Myron Steere asked if it is all sports or NHIAA sanctioned sports? Equestrian?

Rich Cahoon said that when football came before the board the district was told that they would always be self-sufficient; the same with Equestrian. Now we are paying for them.

Linda Quintanilha said that a specific amount of money could be designated for sports and the Athletic Director could decide how to spend that money.

Rich Cahoon said that the process has been based on multiple years of club status before receiving funding from the district. Currently, we have a limited number of sports because of funding. We may now be faced with an unlimited number of clubs because we are not charging.

Linda Quintanilha said that the budget should get set and administration determine how it is spent. Rich said that a baseline is needed.

Linda Quintanilha moved to waive co-curricular and athletic fees for the rest of the year and that the budget be determined for these items. This will be the baseline and that would be the figure that administration will use to determine how the money is spent.

Janine Lesser second.

She said that reallocation within the line can take place.

Linda Quintanilha cited special Olympics as an example that might be eliminated because of unified sports. Unified sports moves toward an inclusive environment.

Discussion took place about the three-year period for a club sport to become an official sport.

Bernd Foecking moved to go with a simple waiver of athletic fees.

Linda Quintanilha withdrew her motion.

Linda Quintanilha seconded.

Rich Cahoon asked for the cost of athletics all inclusive. What is the cost of the athletic program? We need to know what the current number is so that we know what we are asking them to manage.

Call the vote to waive athletic fees forever. Unanimous.

Linda Quintanilha moved to pay for curriculum based day field trips. Kristen Reilly second.

Rich Cahoon said that we have a current policy. Right now it does not allow an end of the year trip to Canobie Lake. We either have to change the practice or the policy.

Linda said that we cover the day trips.

Unanimous.

Reward trips will be looked at separately.

RECAP: school sponsored curriculum based fees, Curriculum based field trip; athletic fees.

6:30 Other

None.

Motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Kristen Reilly second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok

Amended at the October 2, 2017 Education Committee Meeting