

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

November 13, 2017
SAU Boardroom
5:30 PM

Minutes

Committee Members:

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

Committee Members Present: Crista Salamy - Chair, Bernd Foecking, Janine Lesser

Others Present: Carol Young, Robin Croteau, Gib West, Myron Steere, Dick Dunning, Jerome Wilson, Niki McGettigan, Ann Forrest

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Chair Crista Salamy asked to shuffle the order of the agenda items.

5:30 Approval of October 2, 2017 Minutes.

Move to approve by Janine Lesser, seconded by Crista. All in Favor.

The minutes were approved as written.

5:35 Curriculum Renewal Cycle

Related to Strategic Plan Action Focus Area 1.1 The district will implement research-based learning frameworks, as they relate to content area, teaching strategies, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to increase student learning and student achievement.

At the last Budget meeting, Rich Cahoon raised that this is planned for programming that is spread out so it's affecting the budget regularly. Ann Forrest mentioned that on this copy we listed K-12 Language, which we normally do not do. But currently, we are looking at that.

Crista Salamy added that we should try to stay on this schedule. In the past things got bumped and it affected the budget.

Dick Dunning asked where we are with the middle/high school math curriculum. He is concerned that there will be a training crunch put upon the teachers if we wait too long before piloting. This is a valid concern. If we are going to pilot, we need a clear plan and Ann Forrest will bring this back to the next Education Committee meeting.

Crista Salamy asked if the renewal plan was ready to go to the Board. Yes, at the Nov. 21st meeting. The December Board will be about moving Math forward, grades 5-12. Janine Lesser indicated that the K-4 math (Eureka) is well liked.

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Review of High School Science Curriculum

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.

Carol Young and Robin Croteau presented their PowerPoint presentation with showing their view of the Science curriculum, which is in line with the Strategic Plan.

Enhanced curricula activities and outside organizations, such as the Harris center, Harris Center, Rotary Camp Quest, and ConVal Youth Sports.

Also presented were slides on the:

- Summer Work Overview - aligning curriculum
- Science and Engineering Practices – cross cutting concepts for grades K-5 and 6-9.
- The 4th NGSS Strand: Engineering, Technology & Applications of Science

In looking at the next Generation skills, physical, biology, and earth and life science, as well as electives all contains strands from the NGSS. Some of these standards are also being expressed in some of our other subjects.

4th NGSS strand: Engineering, Technology, and applications of Science. Again, Physical science, biology, and earth and space science, which also has a writing focus. Students analyze and write about existing technology.

Partnerships include the Harris Center, NCC, and Cornucopia Project (sustained agriculture). NCC is partnering with Ms. Milne's AP Chemistry class.

One Science goal is to meet the needs of all learners. We are reaching our goal by co-teaching, differentiated instruction, blended learning (one-to-one initiative), extending learning opportunities, and co-curricular activities. Celebration of learning at the end of the semester.

Stem co-curricular include: Envirothon, ocean bowl, Chem Club, Robotics Rocketry, Forensics club, Math club.

The next steps include: developing course competencies based on Science and Engineering Practices and applying physical science mode to biology; more opportunities to integrate engineering design, proactive into all courses; making chemistry running start opportunity accessible to more students; offering AP Environmental science.

Stand outs:

ReRun: We want to make sure we were on the same page with student's expectations. Templated response for an assignment/experiment. Self-regulated writing strategies. Students learn and remember the rerun piece.

Honors Chemistry weekly schedule. This is finely tuned by Ms. Milne. The running start credit could possibly fit here.

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Dick Dunning asked about conversations with ATC to support Running start. Ms. Milne did speak with John Reitnauer and was directed to speak with Nashua Community College (NCC). We want to encourage students on both side of ATC and Science.

Myron Steere asked for a number of students attending the classes.

Crista Salamy asked if they are finding the opportunity for more students to take the science classes and will they open up for more extending learning. Ms. Young did not think so at this time.

Janine Lesser asked about running start. Looking for clarification. Is the college credit with Nashua CC only? We also have some course through Manchester CC. Ms. Milne had to get the NCC's approval. NH state colleges will accept the credits. Some colleges will not accept the AP credits, depending on whether it's a student's major.

Myron Steere asked how many people are qualified to teach running start. Gib West thinks it is 8 or 9 in the building. In science, Ms. Milne could probably do three. Mr. West indicated that some of our AP courses are year long. We don't want to reduce our staff to create more running start courses. We have to maximize resources. Some students do not take an AP test. Janine wonders if it is possible to align the running start classes around the ATC and vocational opportunities. Most of them already are.

Dick Dunning asked about the sustainable agriculture.

AP courses fees: Crista Salamy asked about the fees for this. AP testing occurs during the first two weeks of May. The fee for an AP test is \$90.00. There are about 101 students taking the test, and some take multiple tests. AP was not included in covering costs.

Myron Steere asked if there is anything they want that we did not address tonight: Ms. Young smiled and said "A new Suite of Science labs."

Carol Young is proud of what the Science department has accomplished. She would like to see more engineering pieces in the classes.

Myron Steere asked about vocational related courses that Ms. Young might be aware of. Is there an integrated Science course? No but Ms. Croteau offers one. She offers the student a perspective.

6:00 Fees in the ConVal School District (Part IV)
Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 1.2.7 All opportunities that are made under the auspices of the District will promote inclusion and equity for all students.

Ann Forrest and Crista Salamy met to discuss moving this forward to the Board, and coming up with a policy to accompany fees.

Let's talk about either the policy piece first, or the fees. But we need a decision tonight.

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ms. Forrest mentioned the previous fees list, but now the list is separated into categories. This list is not all inclusive and can change from year to year.

This shows the categories and their sub listing. The last page of this section shows what the students have to bring/pay for in order to participate.

The other action item for the SAU is policies. Ann has included several fee related policies.

Concern: is charging fees limiting student participation?

See List of Fee Discussion (Part IV). We do not have an official Waiver policy.

Janine Lesser asked how often do parents come forward to request financial support? Ms. Forrest did not know that number.

Niki McGettigan indicated that at the small-school level you know the families and hence we can approach the family to offer support.

Mr. West does not have a clear picture of this issue. Our trips abroad do not provide funding. All monies are raised by the students. How do we make the support successful and confidential?

We have a large number of F& R students. 64 Hours bags at the high school are underutilized.

Myron Steere asked that if we had a modest fee would it make a difference. Gib West responded there appeared to be no difference, based on the data from the Athletic Director.

List issue of the "Common Approach". This group wants to support curriculum-based fees and curriculum-based field trips.

Pending are the overnight and international field trips. Should there be a waiver process in place?

We've chose to waive fees related to SOME extracurricular activities.

Policy JQ: Bernd Foecking discussed that we are asking our tax payers to fund our activities. If we're asking kids to contribute, it is only a small part of the overall expense. What is the real cost for a player? If we asking the taxpayer to fund education, we cannot present obstacles. Or we make the students pay the whole cost.

Ann Forrest feels that we might not be able create a policy on this.

Mr. West feels it comes down to the expansion of what we offer. To create a new team/club, they must be self-supporting for the first 3 years, and then the district picks up the funding, following Board approval. These activities are based on what the students ask for.

We need to look at the history of athletics and co-curricular, looking at the growth and the associated fees.

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We came from the place that we did not want to charge (equity).
Crista Salamy says it is philosophical for her. How many of these students that we are trying to help will take advantage of the opportunity?

Is the focus on the high school only? Are there areas we can identify where we should absolutely cover the fees? Janine Lesser indicated she believes it is the sports that are more of a concern than during the school day (curriculum based).

Dick Dunning raised the fact that NHDI occurs during the day, which the district supports. We pay for the grades 5-8 and at the elementary level we pay for some of them.

Mr. Dunning feels this is a Pandora's Box, either reduce the amount of activities, or leave it alone. There is no solution except reducing.

Ms. Forrest would encourage this group to bring something back to the Board. Do we want to put forth a recommendation for a more official waiver process for, say the middle school D.C. trip?

Mr. West said he's looking at cutting 5 staff members but no cuts to co-curricular.

Bernd Foecking indicated that it feels crazy to cut staff and not co-curricular.

Waiver policy. Crista Salamy asked how would we do this. Go to the Policy Committee with guidelines?

Crista Salamy presented the majority of not changing anything and then waiving sports fees though spring of 2018 and fees would return in Fall of 2018.

Will this continue to be an equity issue? There is no simple answer to this. How many things will we offer to the students?

Do we want to recommend to the Board that both sports and co-curricular fees come back in the Fall of 2018.

Myron Steere suggested having a budgeted amount to cover the cost of those students who cannot afford to participate.

Crista Salamy would like to include that the AP exams also be covered. Janine Lesser wondered if those students who would not take an AP course would then take it if it is free of charge.

AP would run around \$9K. No fees for academics. Fees would cover AP and Running Start. Take fees (money) and put them into a waiver line item. Ann Forrest encourages the group to look into a Waiver Fee policies (for any fee). Athletic fees for 18/19 at the high school will be reinstated in the Fall of 2018(?) but not at the middle school level. Also, this would not affect co-curricular fees. Everything else stays the same.

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Aside of NHDI, we don't want to say. We will take the money to put aside as a waiver for academic hardship.

At the last meeting the committee covered the school-day curriculum-based field trips. We've already put that money in the budget.

We want to bring this to Policy.

Myron/Carol will remember to add fees to the Board agenda so that Mr. Foecking can bring it forward.

6:20 Exploring Educational Equity in the ConVal School District

Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 3.3.3 The School District will develop a plan for any changes to school and/or grade level organizational structures.

- Share copies of Phase I Report for review.
- Discussion of the report will happen at the December 11th meeting.
- Email comments and questions to Ann Forrest (aforrest@conval.edu) by December 4th.

Ann wanted to view the Exploring Educational equities. We are sharing this document with you. Please take the time to review this before we discuss this at our next meeting. Please email any comments/questions to Ann Forrest by December 4th.

6:30 Other

Overdue Strategic Plan items – Crista Salamy and Ann Forrest will meet to discuss this.

Ms. Forrest went through the Strategic Plan and created a draft Timeline. She thought it important to map these out.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, December 11, 2017 in the SAU Boardroom

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hills