

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Strategic Plan Committee

SAU Office
Fitch Conference Room

Thursday, October 11, 2018
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

School Board Committee Members:

- Pierce Rigrod, Chair
- Richard Dunning
- Bernd Foecking
- Jim Fredrickson
- Janine Lesser
- Kristen Reilly

Attendees: Dick Dunning, John Jordan, Bernd Foecking, Kristen Reilly, Ann Forrest, Pierce Rigrod
(5:47 pm)

1. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by Bernd Foecking,

2. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2018

Motion to accept the minutes postponed until November meeting.

3. Modification to the Funding Formula

Bernd went with the numbers from prior years. He ran them under a variety of scenarios. He created charts to see where the largest gaps were. He found it difficult to believe that any of the different formulas would pass easily.

4. Student Achievement - Goal 1 Discussion

Ann Forrest indicated that this would be what was accomplished last year around ELA, Math, and Science and the recommendations that were made. We are still looking at the high school math and at the end of this year we will be bringing world language curriculum forward. She feels we are around 52% complete on Goal 1, which puts us right on target. She indicated that Pierce Rigrod wanted to meet around the assessment goals, such as what we are using to measure success. He would like to review these with her. Dick Dunning asked if we are still using NWEA. Yes, we are. We also have AIMSweb, and the State Assessments.

Mr. Dunning is curious, as he recalls that at one time there seemed to be so many different tests.

Ms. Forrest pointed out that our middle schools do not test with NWEA for the spring testing. In addition, the state pays for the end of year state assessments we give our students.

Ms. Forrest indicated that state tests have never been strong in giving us true results that we can use.

Pierce Rigrod asked about where we publish our assessment results. We Are ConVal is our main publication source. State test results are on the DOE website by school; however, if the class size is too small they will not publish results, for privacy reasons.

Pierce Rigrod is wondering how we can articulate our results/success other than We Are ConVal. He noted that one of the real estate publications still pull their data from the state. How are the private sites gathering their data and can we create new venues for notifying the public on our district test results. The trend is that our proficiency levels drop as the student advances in grade levels. Should we be talking more about achievement, in terms of how kids are doing? How do we define achievement?

Dick Dunning indicated having a standardized tool and using it over a period of time is beneficial for monitoring student success over the years. Consistency is important. He remarked that NWEA was a great tool for him. He feels the state assessment is useless as an assessment tool, as we have to wait so long to review the data. NWEA has been used by the district for a number of years and the results are readily available.

We do publish the overall picture of how we assess student growth.

Pierce Rigrod would like to see a document that makes the information more accessible and clearer to those looking for academic rigor within our assessment/growth.

Goal 1 does not have any goal for measurement on how we communicate the assessment information, according to Bernd Foecking. Ann Forrest indicated that though assessment data may not be documented in our goal, we have action steps that are under revision, and that should or could cover the communication piece of assessment data.

Pierce Rigrod feels if we spend time on measures, we can report out and reassure the public that we are making academic progress with our students. Our website does not speak a lot to academic performance. This could be both an Ed and Communications Committee task. Kristen Reilly asked how the nonacademic growth of a student is reported. There is a large faction of parents who focus on the testing and academic performance, but she feels there is a larger group who does not want their children testing, with a focus more on social and emotional growth. How does this play into our definition of achievement?

How do we measure competency-based achievement? What is the trajectory? Pierce Rigrod does not know how this might look, but we have the measures and data to create something. He feels people who are moving to the area would be very interested in this information.

Dick Dunning thinks having a general view of how kids are performing, academically and emotionally, would be a good tool to have available. The school's climate is critical to the student's wellbeing. NWEA really give a good picture (globally) of how our kids are doing. This takes a lot of training on the part of the staff to utilize the tools to best research what the students' needs are. Mr. Dunning is concerned about the number of tests we give our elementary-level students.

Our second goal is community and culture.

Ann Forrest asked for clarity on seeing the updated achievement goals.

For the November meeting, Ann Forrest will bring assessment data from We Are ConVal, as well as any new data that the state has published. She has also starting looking at culture and climate surveys that can be given to students, staff, and parents...how are they feeling and are there real differences across those groups?

Bernd Foecking asked about comments from parents who are concerned about behavior. He asked what is our strategy on inclusion for those students who continuously act out and disrupt the learning environment of classmates. Ann Forrest feels we need to look at this differently. She thinks it is an

educational piece for parents. When a classroom often must be cleared due to bad behavior of an individual student, it is a concern of the parents.

Mr. Dunning feels that there is a happy medium between inclusion and exclusion.

Kristen Reilly feels we do not have full inclusion.

Bernd Foecking wants to be able to say we have a plan to deal with this disruptive behavior.

We do create plans for students, once we can identify the problem, our plans are effective, and sometimes we need to put additional plans into place.

Dick Dunning asked how long we wait before we address that issue. He feels we wait too long. Ann Forrest indicated that there are things being done. Mr. Dunning is not arguing that point, but wonders how many times the room has to be cleared before action is taken.

A climate survey is something we definitely want to do.

5. Other Business (follow up from last agenda)

Policies regarding online research-we have to come up with a policy for this. We also have to catalog the different resources that we are using.

Ann Forrest thinks that with the Chromebook, we are seeing more products coming into the classrooms. Learn Platform provides a system that would inventory and catalog all our online resources that have been approved for use within the district. Teachers can all submit a request for use of new products. There would be review process for any proposed tool. This system will also generate an app showing what the teachers and students are using. It will pick up if people are using online resources that are not in our approved catalog.

Bernd Foecking feels our content-filtering tool on the Chromebook will prevent rogue products.

Pierce Rigrod asked if this is a Policy committee issue. Ann Forrest said we first need a plan, in case of violations, which will come to the local school board for approval by the end of the 18-19 school year (June). Ann Forrest indicated that she could keep this committee informed as the plan is being created and finalized. This will be ongoing work. It is a large undertaking. We are working with a district in Natick MA who has been through this and has many great ideas and tools in place.

We are concerned about student privacy. Bernd Foecking asked if we could "borrow" a plan from them and tweak it to fit our own goals/needs. Ann Forrest indicated that the implementation is so much more than just coming up with a plan.

6. Adjourn

Move to adjourn by Dick Dunning at 6:35, seconded by Kristen. All in favor.

Pierce Rigrod asked that we move our start time back to 6:00, effective the upcoming November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hills