

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 15, 2019
SAU Boardroom
5:30 PM

Minutes

Committee Members:

Jerry Wilson (Chair), Richard Dunning, Crista Salamy, Bernd Foecking, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly

Present: Jerry Wilson, Richard Dunning, Bernd Foecking, Linda Quintanilha, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Ann Forrest, Cari Christian-Coates, Ben Moenter, Myron Steere, Greg Morris, Sam Winslow, Griffin Fletcher, Gib West, Michelle Voto

5:30 Approval of March 18, 2019 Minutes

Linda Quintanilha moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2019. Dick Dunning second. Jerry Wilson abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

5:35 Universal Preschool Definition (Cari Coates & Ben Moenter)

Related to School Board Goal: By June 2019, report out on the implications of universal preschool; through research related to effectiveness, cost, implementation, resources needed, and current programming to determine whether or not it is the most effective preschool model for the school district.

Cari Coates and Ben Moenter shared the definition of Universal Preschool. The major focus today is to establish a definition for this district.

Cari Coates reported that benchmarks in the smart goal resulted in research.

“Preschool for all” means access to high quality, full day, free or reduced-cost (based on family income) preschool available to all 4 year olds in the ConVal School District.

ConVal’s current preschool model has ages 3 to grade K, with both identified and typical students. The thought is to make it available to all 4 year olds.

Cari said that the current 3-5 year old program would continue. The suggestion is to target 4 year olds and offer a program 5 days a week. Typical peers pay, identified students are covered by IDEA. The issue is that there are four year olds who may be in a preschool program but families cannot afford to send them to a program. The current 3 year old program is half-day.

Once the definition is determined, then questions can be answered later. The district needs to know if it will be free for all 4 year olds. How do they prioritize, etc.?

Jerry Wilson asked if what is being asked is if the Education Committee buys into this definition. Confirmed.

Linda Quintanilha said that she doesn’t call it a universal preschool if it is limited to 4 year olds.

Kimberly Saunders said that the board needs to decide what they can get behind and then a plan to develop that will come forward.

Cari said that the State does not provide any funding for preschool.

Myron Steere asked for a reading if preschool is helpful to students coming into it. Kimberly said that preschool is not the silver bullet; the investment outcome is hard to determine. There are tangibles. We won't know what was avoided. A child coming into a preschool program will have exposure to certain learning. Some students come in and do not know their colors.

Myron Steere asked if a reduction in discipline referrals will be evident in time. Kimberly said that that information is tracked and will be visible.

Linda Quintanilha said that this would be more attractive to young families.

Kimberly Saunders said that we are not proposing eight preschool programs in all of the elementary schools. The proposal likely adds one location.

Linda Quintanilha said that she suspects that there is a breaking point for the taxpayers.

Cari said that typical students are currently paying. A conversation about balance; bringing in some kind of income or if the full burden is on the district.

Bernd Foecking asked the tuition for preschool. \$1,440 for the full year; three days a week, half-day.

Jerome Wilson said that the question becomes if the Education Committee supports this definition.

Bernd Foecking said that a timeline for expansion or growth is asked. Cari said that that will come forward with next steps.

Dick Dunning said that he feels comfortable accepting this definition. Everyone pays except that there is a sliding scale based on income.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the preschool definition as presented in the document provided based on a sliding scale. Bernd Foecking second. Unanimous.

5:55 Comparison of High School Graduation Requirements for Math

Policy IKF High School Graduation

Related to School Board Goal: Review and report out on the allocation of resources across the Math and Science departments at CVHS by June 30, 2019. (English and Social Studies to be considered for examination in 2019-2020).

Ann Forrest distributed a document titled "Comparison of High School Graduation Requirements for Math".

Recapping from the March meeting:

The list of information with regard to high school graduation requirements including similar and different high schools was reviewed. Concerns around tracking math classes was shared. A request for failure rates and dropouts for math courses is in process. Do the graduation requirements related to math need revision?

Greg Morris, CVHS Math Teacher, said that he was pleased to have had the opportunity to do this research. Enriching programs during TASC time is suggested. Identified students could be targeted until they become successful in math. An afterschool program that is more robust than currently offered is suggested. Talking to the families of these struggling students could take place to encourage participation.

Greg Morris said that Senior Math was designed for struggling math students in Algebra I and II, directed at junior and seniors. Offering a full-year algebra experience could be offered.

Ann Forrest recommended completion of Algebra I and four (4) math credits instead of three (3). It makes most sense for these to go into effect for next year's freshmen class. In addition, another recommendation is requiring students to take a math course each semester until they complete Algebra I and II.

Additionally, how teachers are assigned to teaching math classes is seen as an issue. Pre-Algebra and Algebra Concepts should direct a student to be successful in Algebra I. A thorough review of curriculum maps will take place. Looking at implementing an intervention system for math. Identifying which assessments will be used is needed. It will be a non-negotiable for a student who needs help to get intervention during TASC time. Resources will be identified. How progress will be measured and what the exit criteria will be needs identification. A clear path in and out of intervention is important. A focus this summer is a communication plan about these changes for students and parents. Summer opportunities for students will help them to be more successful.

A fair majority of our students take Geometry prior to taking the SAT.

Linda Quintanilha said that we know every student can learn math, we just have to figure out how to teach them. She is in favor of looking at Geometry down the road.

Bernd Foecking shared his concern about more math at the risk of losing opportunities for other courses. Taking math across the full year was favorable compared to two hours every day.

Dick Dunning motioned to pass this to the Policy Committee to change the graduation requirements to four (4) credits where all students will have to pass Algebra I.

Ann Forrest referenced Policy IKF with proposed changes.

Linda Quintanilha second.

Kimberly Saunders said that she will need to work with Michelle Voto and Greg Morris about the four credits. Resources will need to be committed.

Unanimous.

6:25 Proposed change to the School Board's Equity Smart Goal

For consideration: Review and report out on the allocation of resources across the Math and Science departments at CVHS by June 30, 2019.

Ann Forrest reported that she is bringing a proposal that just math be the focus this year.

Dick Dunning moved to focus on math this year. Bernd Foecking second. Unanimous.

6:30 Policy IHBH Extended Learning Opportunities

Policy IMBC Alternative Credit Options

Related to further revisions/information requested by Policy Committee.

Ann Forrest reported that related to alternative credit options, ours does not include an opportunity to appeal the process; it does on the ELO.

A list of regulations and procedures to implement this policy is needed.

It is an implementation instead of a change in policy.

6:45 Other

Ann Forrest shared copies of Summer Adventure brochures for the middle schools. This information has been sent home with report cards, will be on websites, will be shared at 4th grade info meetings.

Jerry Wilson reported out on the Edith Bird Bass Essay Contest. He has reached out to the high school counseling office and the English department. A committee of readers is needed. More to come.

Jerry Wilson brought forward the Committee Goal Setting Sheet. Are there specific areas that committee members wish to focus on and how do they align with the Strategic Plan?

Ann Forrest said that action items were pulled from the Strategic Plan and the Curriculum Renewal as well as board goals. Education Committee then mapped out the year for agendas.

Bernd Foecking suggested multi-age classrooms as a focus.

Dick Dunning said that the board will make a decision about multi-age/multi-grade, DCS 5th grade etc. Education Committee should fit with Strategic Planning and drive the two fronts.

The next meeting will look at School Counseling and Multi-Age.

Is there a need to meet twice a month? No.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled on May 20th.

Ann Forrest provided an update on data security and privacy. It is in process and we are actively working on it.

Does block scheduling require more staffing than a traditional schedule? Kimberly said that it is not about how it is offered but rather what we offer.

How is the 80 minute block being used? Structuring this time is important. Myron Steere noted that some classes use the time to do their homework.

Does block scheduling work against the sending schools structure?

Discussion took place about math teacher assignments.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:51. Linda Quintanilha second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok