

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Strategic Plan Committee
SAU Office

Thursday, July 16, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Pierce Rigrod, Janine Lesser, Beecher Clifton-Waite, Myron Steere, Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Marian Alese, Brian Pickering, Gib West, Steve Bartsch, John Reitnauer, Rosie Deloge, Helfried Zrzavy, Stephan Morrissey, Rich Cahoon

Pierce Rigrod called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. ConVal High School Three-Year Strategic Plan Update

Brian Pickering reported that the high school administrative team have worked to develop the high school strategic plan.

Pierce Rigrod reported out on the work of the district strategic plan that incorporates similar elements to this plan including technology and capital investments.

Dr. Minnihan said that much discussion has taken place about competencies and the ATC. Brian Pickering said that every piece of the high school strategic plan has coordinating discussion with district wide goals.

Pierce Rigrod noted that the technology piece speaks about the ratio; it appears that we are in the position to make larger investments at the high school. Mr. Rigrod asked what the plan is with bring your own device (BYOD). Mr. Pickering said that the details and links are included in the plan.

Helfried Zrzavy said that the first section is access. Either go BYOD or 1:1. It depends on how technology will be spread out throughout the entire district. The disadvantage of BYOD is the need for control over the device to protect the network. A 1:1 environment would require other considerations.

Pierce Rigrod asked about the value of upgrading the science labs. Why are the new standards going to be met with new proposed labs rather than what is currently in place from a standards point?

Discussion took place about a culinary program. Stephan Morrissey said that the culinary profession does not lead to great income potential. Mr. Pickering spoke about all components of culinary from kitchen to gardens and connections in a cross disciplinary.

Dr. Minnihan shared his perspective from a philosophical point; history and art don't always result in lucrative positions but they are important to society.

Rosie Deloge said that a program is considered initially. A student might go in that direction for employment or find something within the program that helps them to learn employability skills and go in a different direction. The experience is important. In the plan, culinary is offered as a program to be developed in the next three years to see how it fits.

Myron Steere asked how this impacts the potential draw for tuition students. Brian Pickering said that anytime programs are built and done well, connections to families considering tuition are created. There is the potential for revenue.

Steve Bartsch said that this goes beyond tuition students but the marketability may cause families to move into the district.

Rich Cahoon asked about inclusionary instructional models. Gib West said that we are 95% there this coming year. Some students have significant needs that will require pullouts. Rich Cahoon asked about space for special education students. Brian Pickering shared the need for office space and meeting areas. There is the ability to capture what is taking place into regular education space. The goal is for all students who do not have life-skills or significant needs to be taught in co-teaching classrooms.

Brian Pickering spoke about relocating Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) and building new labs. The A&P space would become the proposed culinary area.

Discussion took place about manufacturing and a potential partnership with New Hampshire Ball Bearing (NHBB). Where are we in this trajectory? John Reitnauer said that it has been four years in the making. NHBB, and one of our teachers, are very invested in the program. Rosie Deloge spoke about students learning engineering practices. Students do not touch machinery at NHBB for safety reasons.

Discussion took place about sustainable programs and making those selected excellent. There are dozens of considerations for program. Plumbing and electrical considerations are among possibilities. The high school plan is aimed at programs of excellence with those that exist and add only one; culinary. We don't have the numbers and square footage for the investment required for all considerations. Mr. Reitnauer said that building and trades students are exposed to plumbing and electrical components. Mr. Pickering spoke about the possible connections in program to students through summer academy, fifth block and others. As an example, the Greater Peterborough Economic Development Committee is looking to build and sustain a website to attract younger populations to this area. They lack the funding to maintain the website. Junior and senior students can work, for credit, to accomplish this in a real world setting.

A survey to gather information about interests of students and parents of students was suggested.

Athletic monies in the plan include a tennis court recommendation, bathrooms, concessions, and sound systems.

Student achievement and performance is the number one goal in the district strategic plan. What is the piece that fits into this plan in terms of measuring student achievement? Modeling, balance and performance, and core beliefs are threaded through the ConVal community.

Discussion took place about testing, competencies, and surveying students four years out of ConVal to measure preparedness and success.

Mr. Pickering shared possibilities of all students being required to take one on-line course, required to take four courses freshmen, sophomore, and junior year with the opportunity to back off by one course senior year and take three classes with the culmination of a senior project.

Rich Cahoon spoke about extended learning opportunities. He asked rather than paying supplemental stipends for fifth block if consideration has been given to having staff start work for block two and continue through fifth block. Mr. Pickering spoke about discussion on options for both students and staff to stagger their day to accomplish what Rich spoke of.

Discussion took place about athletic opportunities. The high school was designed for the number of students we currently have now back in the 70's. As enrollment increased to the 1,200 range, athletic opportunities were added. Enrollment is on the decline. Co-ops are expanding at a rapid rate. Portsmouth is co-oping because enrollment is going down everywhere. Co-oping saves money, and gives rosters more students.

2. Other

Pierce Rigrod reported that district Strategic Plan Committees are planned for August. Brian Pickering spoke about the importance of not losing site of the theatre project.

Stephan Morrissey motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok