

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

August 24, 2015  
SAU Offices  
5:00 PM

**Minutes**

Committee Members:

Crista Salamy – Chair, Linda Quintanilha, Fiona Tibbetts, Rich Cahoon, Gary Backstrom

**Present:** Crista Salamy, Fiona Tibbetts, Rich Cahoon

**Others:** Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Myron Steere, Mark Swasey

**Crista Salamy called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.**

**1. Approval of June 22, 2015 Minutes**

**Rich Cahoon moved to accept the minutes of June 22, 2015. Second. Unanimous.**

**2. Strategic and Board Goals – review Education piece**

Goal #1 – Student Achievement/Performance

The objectives in this goal were reviewed from an educational perspective.

Several of the objectives are ongoing maintenance items.

Strategies were reviewed and amended. Discussion on SWIFT, reducing the number of foundation classes, and having each child participate fully at their community school.

What has precipitated the change related to having students attend community schools rather than a program in one of the schools? As we start to hit larger numbers, and the knowledge that kids need to be in their local schools drive some of the change.

Discussion took place about equity; library experiences in each of the elementary schools differ. Equitable means different things.

Capstone projects for senior students was defined and discussed. Looking at the impact of capstone projects for every student was discussed. Further research is needed. Changing the word “implement” to “explore” was made.

The school district currently revises curriculum based on research and the analysis of student data.

Discussion took place about the soft skills needed for students to enter the workforce.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to further work the objectives and share with the committee for further comment.

Rich Cahoon said that he wondered if the things listed describe a satisfactory amount of academic improvement for the next five years.

We don't have a goal around test scores or college admission (outputs). It is all about inputs. An outcome based goal related to the students that don't go to college or into the workforce is needed.

Rich Cahoon said that academic rigor is not addressed in the matrix. Academic ambition is lacking. ATC Programs can be rigorous, it is not just AP classes.

Discussion took place about the necessary perception of the public that they are paying for a quality education.

### **3. Elementary multi-grade K-4 (K-5 @ DCS) approach/discussion (Policy IIB)**

Kimberly Saunders referenced Policy IIB, Class Size. The multi-grade approach involves class size. Kimberly Saunders said that this is a good change to the policy.

Rich Cahoon said that multi-grade would be more challenging for a teacher resulting in a lower class size recommendation preferred.

Kimberly Saunders asked if this can move back to the Policy Committee. Confirmed.

### **4. Co-curricular/sports review and update: Tim Markley**

Tabled.

### **5. Co-op Sports**

Mark Swasey asked for the approval to move forward with forming a cooperative team with Monadnock in the sport of boys and girls ice hockey. In order to maintain the sports, this is necessary. Both Athletic Directors need to talk to their coaches and constituents to see if there is interest. Both sides are interested. The approval of School Boards is also a necessary step. Mark Swasey has asked to continue the petition on to the State. ConVal is Division III on the boy's side and one of three that is not part of a cooperative. Numbers are going down, it is hard to find ice time.

Myron Steere asked how ice time would be worked out. Mr. Swasey said that ice time will be looked at on a per player rate. It costs approximately \$34,000 a year for ice time per team. Keene's ice time is slightly higher than Winchendon. Details need to be worked out.

Fiona Tibbetts said that this is a great solution to the cost of teams. Ms. Tibbetts asked what the challenges might be moving forward. Mr. Swasey cited the potential for current hockey players to be cut in future years.

Crista Salamy said that she had heard differently. What if Monadnock gets a rise in their student interest? Mr. Swasey said that this is a two-year agreement. Both schools would work together to determine coaching. It is a 50/50 split of the bills; transportation would be handled differently. The number on the team is set, the best that try out will be selected.

Are there upstart costs for uniforms and equipment? Mr. Swasey reported that new uniforms would be purchased and split with Monadnock according to the per pupil cost. Booster clubs buy the undershirts. Students are responsible for socks, hockey sticks, skate sharpening, and helmets etc. The officials, clock time, etc. are covered by the schools.

Rich Cahoon asked if the rink in Keene has the capacity. Mark Swasey confirmed.

Rich Cahoon asked if Monadnock was the team that would be considered if a cooperative for football was sought. Mr. Swasey said that it is not something that has been discussed.

**Rich Cahoon moved to recommend this at the next Board meeting. Fiona Tibbetts second.**

Fiona Tibbetts asked Mark Swasey for cost information on transportation. Mr. Swasey confirmed that he would provide information.

Kimberly Saunders confirmed with Mark that he is here tonight looking for permission to begin the petition process. Confirmed.

Dr. Brendan Minnihan asked if this is for 2016/2017. Confirmed.

Mark Swasey asked the Education Committee their thoughts; the cost would be considerably less. We have to come to terms with a responsible way to look at this; 50/50, per pupil. Rich Cahoon said that he is fine with 50/50; it will all come out in the wash in a two year cycle.

**Unanimous.**

## **6. Other**

Discussion took place about the necessary perception of the public that they are paying for a quality education.

Discussion took place about assessment and using timely testing data to identify instruction. AIMSWEB & NWEA serve large demographic areas. Teachers are not able to create reliable valid assessments. We give multiple assessments to balance the system with checks and balances in it.

Rich Cahoon spoke about multi-grade in our small schools. He said that the shock over this predictable practice is interesting. Mr. Cahoon said that multi-grade is the cost of having small schools. The next question is "how do we do it well?" It should be planned and planned for and trained for. We should just say we are going to have multi-grade classrooms well and do it well across the district. Discussion took place.

Crista Salamy asked if Education Committee can meet on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to discuss output goals and multi-grade.

Dr. Minnihan spoke about large sized "Specials" classrooms at SMS. Part of the reason is that the Spanish position used to be half-time Spanish and then half-time French. Now it is just half-time Spanish. Would the Education Committee have interest in bringing on a part-time or half-time German teacher and switching mid-year? Or bringing on a full time Spanish Teacher so that each school would have a Spanish teacher? We currently have a half time German teacher at the high school. Discussion took place about the possibilities.

Fiona Tibbetts was interested at looking at this in further detail rather than simply hiring. First day numbers will be brought to the August 31<sup>st</sup> Education Committee meeting.

**Rich Cahoon motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Fiona Tibbetts second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok