

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

August 31, 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 (5:25), Linda Quintanilha (5:30)

Others Present: Myron Steere, Pierce Rigrod, Kimberly Saunders, Dr. Brendan Minnihan,
Dwain Hammett

1. Approval of August 24, 2015 Minutes

Fiona Tibbetts motioned to approve the minutes of August 24, 2015. Crista Salamy second. Unanimous.

2. Multi-grades

Some community members will never accept multi-grade, others find it unacceptable and just want some schools closed. An action item might result in the fact that if we maintain small schools that having multi-grade is imperative. Resources necessary to pursue multi-grade classrooms must be in place. Discussion outside of the budget process is needed. What are we doing, how are we doing it, and what is the background?

An action item is needed with a policy to follow.

3. Output Goals

Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan was reviewed. Discussion took place about moving students a full year or more of growth/proficiency in Mathematics as measured by performance assessment from the point they entered at in benchmark measures for 2017, 2018, and 2019. This will also affect SRSD, Science, and World Language (by different measurements so that students will go beyond Year 2 of a language)

4. First Day Numbers

Dr. Minnihan reported that some schools are seeing increases in enrollment numbers while other schools reflect a decline in enrollment. South Meadow School has seen an increase in enrollment. Given the current numbers in comparison, GBS has a lower teacher to student ratio. A reduction in an art teacher caused the numbers for specials at SMS to be higher than recommended. A recommendation to restore the art position was asked to alleviate the issue.

This is about IAT, Art, and Family & Consumer Science.

It was suggested that Greenfield students attend GBS rather than SMS to balance numbers.

All were in favor of the recommendation to restore the art position to be brought forward to the School Board tomorrow.

Pierce Rigrod spoke about why we are doing what we are doing in the areas of math, science, and world language.

Kimberly Saunders said that what has been discovered as a result of evaluation of our curriculum etc. could be added to the document to provide context.

External benchmarks, and their nine indicators, will be added to the plan that might indicate quality rather than stating that we will do better than we do now.

A definition of “academic rigor” or “academic achievement” was suggested as an addition.

What does it take to put our students into learning opportunities outside of our classrooms? What does it look like to have students learn a language at a younger age? We are talking about offering a world class education.

Kimberly Saunders agreed to go through the plan and contextualize it and add benchmarks. Kimberly asked the committee for feedback on the work done.

Discussion took place about the ATC components in the plan and the timeline associated with it. We have been working on this for several years; why push it out to 2020? Student interest and occupational data are among several considerations. The other side is career readiness. We need to defend what we are offering and why we offer it with ATC programming. How do we make decisions on course offerings in the ATC? Looking for workforce projections is important. How often should ATC programming be reviewed? The conversation needs to continue.

5. Other

South Meadow School conducted summer classes for students and GBS does not offer summer classes. Are these classes intended for students that need to catch up? Or, is it for students who want to excel?

There is an equity issue for these students. It is a lost opportunity not to address this. Summer Academy for middle school should be added to Education and/or Budget & Policy agendas.

Citing the collection of data on Running Start courses.

Crista Salamy exited the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

What other offsite programs could we offer to our students that have high participation? Similar sacrifices are being made by both districts in the ATC agreement.

Rather than filling status quo positions, positions should be filled that are part of a plan for ATC programming.

Rich Cahoon said that other committees have looked at other sub-committee plans and goals.

Education Committee has not. Is there a plan to look at this? What are the educational benefits of rearranging classes at the high school and moving art classes and relocating science labs? If we are asking taxpayers to vote in favor of specific requests, we need to defend the “why”.

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Rich Cahoon second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok