

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2017

SAU Boardroom

5:30 PM

Minutes

Committee Members:

Crista Salamy - Chair, Bernd Foecking, Janine Lesser, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly, Pierce Rigrod

Committee Members Present: Crista Salamy, Janine Lesser, Bernd Foecking, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly

Others Present: Dr. Ann Forrest, Jerome Wilson, Rich Cahoon, Myron Steere, Richard Dunning, Kevin Pobst

5:30 Approval of November 13, 2017 Minutes

Linda Quintanilha moved to accept the minutes of November 13, 2017. Second. Jerome Wilson amended the minutes to reflect his correct name; Jerome, not Gerald. Unanimous.

5:35 Exploring Educational Equity in the ConVal School District

Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 3.3.3 The School District will develop a plan for any changes to school and/or grade level organizational structures.

- Review of Phase I Report (see attached)

Ann Forrest shared a presentation on the Equity Report. The question of Equality vs. Equity come up often and are two different things. Looking at teacher quality indicators, programmatic indicators, and achievement data are part of conducting an equity audit. More work is needed on the teacher quality component. We are not looking for solutions yet; we are looking to understand what is before us. Programs were looked at; we are identifying males at a higher rate than females for special education services.

Discussion took place about the fact that not every situation is inequitable i.e. boys behave differently than girls to situations which results in different outcomes. In particular, discussion took place about suspensions. This issue is complex. Are there things that need to be changed in terms of practice that make school better for everyone? Pulling people into these conversations to raise awareness is critical. At the end of this year, what changes can be made that we know we have to make? The next step is to expand discussion with staff and groups where parents are present in. Each school has a SWIFT committee that should have a parent participating.

We have a significantly larger gap in the achievement rate of disadvantaged to advantaged students. A philosophical belief on how we deal with children can cause real change. School should feel safe; students get fed, they learn, and it makes a difference. It is not curriculum.

Training is the key. Professional Development time is needed.

What are the next steps? What is needed?

Next steps are to collect teacher quality data and be sure it is accurate. Discipline data for a period of three years will be discussed. Last year's smarter balance, NWEA, and other assessment will be added and disaggregated by school.

Raising the awareness level and changing over time is needed.

6:00 Math Committee Update

Related to Strategic Plan Action Step: 1.1.1 The School District will conduct a review of the mathematics content and instruction, and then revise curriculum and professional practices based on research and/or the analysis of CVSD student data.

Dr. Ann Forrest reported on a proposal for reviewing and piloting math programs grades 5-12. Looking at programs in alignment with Common Core State Standards results in programs having difficulty aligning. Determining quality is important; more is not always more or better. With the 1:1 initiative we want to leverage the use of technology.

The recommendation moving forward is a revised approach to the traditional piloting process in order to prevent disruption in student learning. Engage NY/Eureka has been adopted K-4. Teachers at the middle school level pulled resources from Engage NY/Eureka at the middle school level because it is open source. Therefore, the recommendation is to move toward Engage NY/Eureka 5-12. An in depth review of curriculum resources will be required for those classrooms not already piloting the program.

Glencoe Math is a program that teachers really liked. It is the updated version of what they currently have.

Dick Dunning asked for clarity; incoming 5th grade next year gets Engage NY; next year's sixth graders could get Envision. Ann said that a recommendation will come forward.

Linda Quintanilha asked how SMS went off and used a program not recommended by the board. Ann said that the program was not aligned to Common Core and will supplement with other resources. Because of the shift in standards, they were supplemented more. Ann said that it has been made very clear that this took place outside of the process.

Dick noted that as a result, books for one year would be purchased for Glencoe Math. Confirmed.

Ann said that working the process is important to determine if there is more substance or just more stuff. Continuity of instruction is critical.

Discussion took place about Geometry when taking PSAT's or SAT's. Geometry would be helpful at the sophomore level.

6:15 Action Steps in Strategic Plan Involving Education Committee

- Proposed Timeline (see attached)

Education Committee meetings were mapped out in relation to the Strategic Plan.

Graduation Requirements to include Geometry were discussed.

6:30 Other

Discussion took place about "concept" courses and that they were supposed to have gone away. How students are placed in courses was discussed.

Next meeting: Monday, January 22, 2018 in the SAU Boardroom

Linda Quintanilha motioned to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok