

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 2, 2020
SAU Boardroom
5:30 PM

Minutes

Committee Members:

Richard Dunning, Linda Quintanilha, Kristen Reilly, Crista Salamy, and Jerome Wilson (Chair)

Present: Jerry Wilson, Dick Dunning, Kristen Reilly, Dr. Ann Forrest, Kim Chandler, Michelle Voto, Janine Lesser

Jerry Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

5:30 Approval of November 21, 2019 Minutes

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2019. Janine Lesser second.

Ann Forrest offered amendments on page two to change “Jen Kiley brings a national program...” to read “Jen Kiley brings professional development training...” In addition, under the VLACS agenda item, the sentence that reads “Ashley Jones and Rachel Bowman...” should read “Ashley Jones, Michelle Voto, and Ann Forrest...” The word “indicted” should read “indicated”. On page three, “VLACS is 80 minutes...” should read “A VLACS block is 80 minutes long often with no face-to-face time with the instructor during the school day”. On page four, “It was noted that seniors must finish....” should read “It was noted that seniors should finish....” Omit “An A+ would translate as an A”. The last sentence of that paragraph should read “VLACS grades do not show up on the CVHS report card but they do on the high school transcript.

Dick Dunning moved to accept as amended. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

5:35 Follow-up on VLACS Recommendations

Proposed revisions to ConVal High School’s Handbook

Dr. Forrest referenced information included in the packet titled “Proposed VLACS Revisions to Current Handbook:” It was noted that the bullet that reads “Requests for exceptions...” is new. Once approved, this information will be added to the Program of Studies. Additionally, a bullet outlining the requirements of being enrolled in three courses...” was noted for sports participation. Progress must be evident for those courses that occur during the season that an athlete participates. Discussion took place about the frequency a student would need to check in to show adequate progress in order to remain eligible to participate in a sport.

Dick Dunning suggested language that defines the frequency of check-ins. Ann Forrest suggested mid-quarter language by providing evidence with follow-up check-ins to support eligibility. “Additional evidence will be required if there are concerns” will be added as well. These changes will go into effect immediately.

The recommendation from the committee is to go with the recommendations discussed tonight.

5:50 Grading Policy and Procedures

Review Policy IKA – Grading System

Review and discuss the *Grading System* section of ConVal High School’s Student Handbook, as well as the section on *Transfer Credits*

The policy simply states that the grading system will be approved by the Board. The information that appears in the student handbook was shared.

Discussion about the grades for Running Start and Dual Enrollment being weighted took place. Those present said that it made sense.

Kim Chandler spoke about the history of “123” classes. Consistency and thoughtful consideration for all courses was discussed. Eliminating the “123” label is recommended. These courses are receiving a lesser weight when looking at GPA.

Ann Forrest said that if this is implemented, it would take place in the new academic year, not mid-year.

Looking at how this impacts current students was suggested. Implementing this for incoming freshmen was also suggested.

Transfer of Credits – The handbook currently states that “Credit will be awarded and added to the ConVal transcript for all transfer credits based on the actual course letter grade which was awarded by the sending school”. The proposed language is “Transfer credits will be awarded and added to students’ ConVal transcript. The weighting of grades for all transfer credits will be based on the *letter* grade awarded by the sending school.”

Dick Dunning said that this is a fair way to do this.

It is important to clarify in the handbook and communicate it.

Jerry Wilson summarized that this proposal will go to the board for their approval of the revisions to the CVHS Handbook. This will come back to the first February Education Committee meeting.

6:20 Share information requested about recess at the elementary and middle Schools

How the decision to have indoor recess is made

Indoor recess options for students

Jerry Wilson shared with the committee that Kristen Reilly requested information about recess at the last committee meeting.

Ann Forrest said that indoor recess is determined by the “real feel” temperature of 10 degrees.

Students did not go out for recess due to rain on the specific dates that Kristen requested. Options for students during an indoor recess differ by staffing. Usually the gym is open where physical activities can take place. Additionally, board games are offered and other appropriate activities.

Kristen Reilly asked if the real feel temperature could be moved to 0 degrees from 10 degrees. Kristen said that she hears that a lot of screen time is offered during this time. She asks that this not be an option. She hears that recess is still sometimes taken away as a consequence as well.

Jerry Wilson said that they understand her concerns. He said that as a board member, our role needs to be considered; they are policy development and fiduciary. It is the administrator's role to develop practice and procedure for implementing the policy. He feels that what Kristen is asking is beyond the role of the board. It is more appropriate for the Policy Committee. Practices and Procedures come as policies are set. Policy IMAH is one policy where recess is mentioned. If a change is recommended it should go through policy.

Dick Dunning said that if we was a building principal and a board member was going to dictate when we are going outside and when snack time will take place, he would render his resignation. He said that he has to consider safety first. Teachers want students to be actively involved in something positive. How you use that time in a positive constructive way should be up to staff. If students participated in an activity on a device that the district controlled, he would have less of a problem.

Janine Lesser said that if she were a building principal, she would find information helpful. She agreed that administrators should not be dictated to by the board. People know the benefits but sometimes day to day life takes precedent.

6:30 Other

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Janine Lesser second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok