

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 25, 2020

5:30 PM

Physical Location: None

Topic: Education Committee

Time: Jun 25, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Minutes

Committee Members:

Richard Dunning, Niki McGettigan (Chair), Linda Quintanilha, Stephen Ullman, and Jerome Wilson

Present: Dick Dunning, Stephen Ullman, Kevin Pobst, Dr. Ann Forrest, Mark Schaub, Katherine Heck, Alan Edelkind, Sara Krapohl, Niki McGettigan, Linda Quintanilha, Heather McKillop, Jerry Wilson, Kim Chandler

Niki McGettigan called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

5:30 Approval of June 4, 2020 Minutes

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2020. Jerry Wilson second. Amending the word “isolating” to “exhibiting” in the sentence “Linda Quintanilha said that Francestown was ~~isolating~~ exhibiting true inclusion.” Linda Quintanilha abstained for having left the June 4th meeting early. Unanimous as amended.

5:35 Quick Review of Relevant Educational Terms and Acronyms (see attached)

Niki McGettigan shared a list of terminology commonly used.

Mark Schaub noted additional information related to Class Rank and Grade Point Average (GPA). GPA has a hand in the transcript and class rank but are two different calculations. Adding weighting to the class rank was one suggestion. Linda Quintanilha suggested adding Weighted GPA to the glossary list.

Niki McGettigan said that the glossary is intended to identify commonly used terms across schools.

5:45 World Language Program Recommendation

A thorough review of world language was reported as having taken place.

Dr. Ann Forrest said that we budgeted \$40K in the 19/20 budget related to curriculum renewal of world language. The intent is to use the money in the school year and will benefit. A focus on Spanish resources is in place. At a time that we were preparing for all of this, we lost one Spanish Teacher. Ann said that this program is still intended to be brought forward and use this funding.

Sara Krapohl, Conval High School Spanish Teacher, said that the recommendation is to purchase *EntreCulturas* in Spanish 1 and 2 for the 20/21 school year. The Advanced Placement (AP) classes have been using different materials than what they are testing on. This will allow the AP structure to match. Starting with the middle school, all the way through, with the same context is the goal.

Ann Forrest said that the issue is jumping from one program to a totally different program.

Linda Quintanilha shared the concern that \$40K could be encumbered and the uncertainty of what future budgets might look like.

Sara Krapohl said that Spanish I would start in the fall and Spanish II in the spring. Spanish III and IV would start in 21/22. The subscription portion of this is paid on a per student basis.

Ann Forrest said that the most it will be is \$25K. There is an element with this company that is hoped to be used at the middle school. It might not work because of scheduling.

Linda Quintanilha moved to recommend supporting the authorization of up to \$31,500 for these subscriptions and online lab. Dick Dunning second.

Stephen Ullman asked for clarity on what is being purchased. Ann Forrest said that we would be purchasing a digital subscription for every student. There are assessment and portfolio modules. We would have enough combination packets to allow us to have hard copy sets for those who would prefer or require one.

Ann Forrest added that the board will have to waive the bidding process.

Linda Quintanilha suggested that a spreadsheet be brought forward that will share cost information which in effect, is a bidding process. The plan is to pilot the use of the online language lab in the fall, which will cost us nothing. If it fits our needs, we would go to a paid subscription in the spring. It is a one-time investment for six years. Linda further said that she is in favor of supporting encumbering funds so program can begin in the fall.

Unanimous.

Sara Krapohl exited at 6:07 p.m.

6:05 Proposed Change to CVHS's Handbook - Weighted Grading (see attached)

Ann Forrest said that approval for some changes in the weighting of grades is being asked of the board. We are doing this in isolation so that it can be communicated sooner rather than later.

Linda Quintanilha moved to accept the proposed changes related to weighted grading. Dick Dunning second.

Katherine Heck asked Kim Chandler to explain why the entire scale is moving up from 4.0 to 5.0.

Kim Chandler explained the weight of a 123 course, college prep, and honors. This allows courses that are Running Start to have the weight that it should as a result of being college prep.

Linda Quintanilha said that this is beautiful, it opens up students to focus on courses other than AP with a pursuit for the best colleges. They will now be open to take an art course or other interests.

Kim Chandler said that a shift toward learning rather than grade will be possible.

Linda Quintanilha said that this allows all students to be in courses with their peers.

Katherine Heck asked if the grading scale is the industry standard. Kim Chandler said that every school does its own thing. This is one reason why colleges have moved away from valuing it; it varies.

Ann Forrest said that it appears that we are bringing about a big change but we really are not. Part of what is proposed is clearly communicating what is going on. The 123 level was eliminated and the one course (wellness) that was a 123 was moved up a level.

Mark Schaub said that we are moving from three scales (123, 012, and 010) to 012, and 010. Are the non-running start and AP courses now one? If so, the scale above it is 20% more. He suggested wording to reflect the intent. The math needs to work out. The calculation needs to be identified.

Kevin Pobst said that for changes such as this, it is usually rolled in with an incoming freshmen class.

Linda Quintanilha said that this does not harm to anyone; it gives Running Start classes a bump.

Mark Schaub said that the 123 scale is the one that we determined as the average for their GPA that appears on a transcript. Are we going to change which grade scale to calculate the transcript GPA? Mark said that he has never worked with two calculations; one for the transcript and one for class rank.

Niki McGettigan asked if the recommendation should come from administration rather than a board decision.

Ann Forrest said that the elimination of the 1.0 scale and keeping the 1.25 and 1.50 scale is the movement; making the Running Start change. Rather than report out two GPA's, we would

report out the weighted GPA. The plan was to start this fall with everyone. All grades would be historically archived according to what has been in place to this date.

Stephen Ullman asked if there should be more community preparation. What about waiting and introducing the new system class by class with incoming freshmen?

Kim Chandler said that this will not negatively affect anyone. It is not a drastic change. This system keeps things even for students.

Ann Forrest said that this is a conversation that deserves much consideration. She does not see this as a big change. For the Running Start courses, it is a positive. She is concerned about the handbook. We are asking for these adjustments now because they are right for right now.

Katherine Heck said that people are sensitive to this and will want to understand the changes.

Linda Quintanilha said that she thinks this simplifies for families.

Niki McGettigan said that she would love to see students build a really great learning profile and not courses that build the most points. That is not our task tonight. She said that this is a perfect remedy for where we are right now.

Stephen Ullman moved the question.

In Favor of making this recommendation for the handbook?: Katherine Heck abstained. All else in favor. Motion carried.

6:20 Other

None.

6:30 Adjourn

Stephen Ullman motioned to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Dick Dunning second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok