

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

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 15, 2020

5:00 PM

### Virtual Location:

Topic: Education Committee Time: Sep 17, 2020 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85025433658?pwd=Rm94MzA1TEh3RGxkamYvOWYxZGdlUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85025433658?pwd=Rm94MzA1TEh3RGxkamYvOWYxZGdlUT09</a>
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## Minutes

### Committee Members:

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

**Present:** Dr. Ann Forrest, Jerome Wilson, Dr. Stephen Ullman, Kevin Pobst, Richard Dunning, Katherine Heck

#### **1. Approval of September 17, 2020 Minutes**

**Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2020. Stephen Ullman seconded.**

**In favor: Dick Dunning, Jerry Wilson, Stephan Ullman, Kevin Pobst.**

**Abstained: Katherine Heck.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **2. 2020-2021 Assessment Schedule**

Dr. Forrest began the discussion surrounding the proposed Assessment Schedule as related to Board Policy. In addition to statewide assessments, the district also informs staff and the board of all school and all grade level testing for fall, winter and spring.

### **Related to Policy ILBA:**

*The assessment program will include an approximate schedule for statewide assessments. The schedule will be distributed to staff and the Board at the beginning of the school year.*

A table was shared with the Committee that provided a detailed summary of assessments, accompanied by a comprehensive description of each assessment and their purpose.

Dr. Forrest clarified that while the Education Committee had advocated for no Fall interim assessments, a written request was made, but the waiver was denied. The testing window is from October 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> and the State extended the testing window. This 30-minute test will now extend through November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Forrest continued to describe that the NH interim assessment actually tests the student for the previous grade level. NWEA is an assessment that pinpoints where students are performing. Dr. Forrest went on to say that the assessments performed at the middle school level were well received by students this year.

Dr. Stephan Ullman asked if tests were computerized or paper/pencil? Dr. Forrest confirmed they are all taken on a computer.

Dr. Ullman asked if the tests are normed. Dr. Forrest explained that NWEA is normed at the national level, other assessments are summative tests that are criterion-based tests and can be measured across the school district and the state.

Dr. Ullman asked if, for example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher can see individual scores or make comparisons within cohorts and Dr. Forrest informed the committee that a teacher can access individual test scores.

Dr. Forrest shared with the committee that another value of NWEA assessments was the fact that test results are available within 24-48 hours. Richard Dunning further described that in addition to expedient results, the NWEA has tools to assist teachers post assessment which help direct and pinpoint instructional changes for each student.

### **3. Review draft schedule for Education Committee meeting agendas**

Dr. Forrest shared a document for consideration that provided possible focus areas mapped out in a timeline for Education Committee work this academic year.

Richard Dunning asked about curriculum renewal and pilot programs. Dr. Forrest shared that much of the work of the teaching staff surrounding curriculum had taken place last year and will be brought forward in November for recommendation. No new pilots are scheduled in the curriculum renewal cycle.

Dr. Ullman had a several questions surrounding the remote learning educational experience and the reopening plan, based on the schedule we are discussing. What is the task of the committee?

Dr. Forrest's understanding from previous Education Committee meetings is that the committee is looking for a clear picture of remote learning. In November, when the district transitions into the remote period, teachers will be invited to the Education Committee to answer questions and give insight as to what remote learning will look like for staff and students.

Richard Dunning asked what content areas will be covered in the remote period? Dr. Forrest explained that all areas will be covered. Richard Dunning went on to ask if the elementary students will need handouts, worksheets and materials provided to them? Dr. Forrest and the teaching staff are currently working out those details as last spring's remote learning period and this fall's remote learning period will

have differences, based on what we learned from the spring and the materials the district will send home will be more hands on.

Mr. Dunning continued the discussion by asking if teachers will have to reformat all content areas to transition to remote learning? Who will be formatting the google classroom and the hard copies? Dr. Forrest described what was learned from the spring semester remote experience regarding hard copy and digital materials. Math was especially difficult and time consuming to make interactive in hard copy form. Moving forward, the goal is to provide more hands on and interactive materials. Using Grant funds, one example of what was purchased is Eureka lessons with an interactive component that compliments the current math curriculum to support teachers. More updates on remote learning will be forthcoming.

Dr. Ullman asked if the committee related documents can be provided prior to the meetings to prepare for discussion as has been the case.

In looking at the timeline Dr. Forrest pointed out that March 18<sup>th</sup> is vacation week, so that date will be tentative only if a meeting is needed.

Katherine Heck asked when the actual student scores are discussed; is it at a future Education Committee meeting or a full board meeting. This year in particular, will the board have enough time when building the budget to assure that the resources needed will get where they need? Dr. Forrest said that this is a great point. When the assessment windows close, comparing last year's data to this year will be valuable.

Kevin Pobst said that identified gaps could be budgeted for to bridge the areas in need. Remote Learning would remain on the November 19<sup>th</sup> agenda. The impact on language arts and math will be good to know. Will funds be reallocated in the area of language arts? It will make sense to see some drops in scores. One of the problems is the way that we budget. We would know more about test results and enrollment in May rather than March.

Kevin Pobst suggested that this might be a topic for an "Education Workshop" during the day time, with time devoted to it to allow for a dive deeper for a lengthier discussion.

Dr. Ullman asked how much the public learns about assessment results. How responsive is the public to the results?

Dr. Forrest said that the results are sent home to parents. When we moved away from No Child Left Behind, there has been less of a response from the communities. Schools "in need of improvement" were identified and it was a big discussion.

Dick Dunning said that it has not been a burning issue in the past with parents. Teachers and administrators took it more to heart. The test scores were decent enough even if they were not as high as we would have liked.

Katherine Heck said this information could be provided in the budget packets for consideration. If there is something glaring, that data would be even more important.

#### **4. Other**

None.

**Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. Dr. Ullman second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok