

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 20, 2021

5:30 PM

Physical Location: SAU Boardroom

Minutes

Education Committee Members: Rich Cahoon, Keira Christian, Richard Dunning, Liz Swan, Stephen Ullman (Chair), and Jerome Wilson

Present: Keira Christian, Richard Dunning, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Ann Forrest, Heather McKillop, Greg Leonard

Stephen Ullman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

5:30 **Approval of [June 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)**

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

5:35 **[Policy IKF - High School Graduation](#)**

- Service Learning/Community Service Requirement

Stephen Ullman moved to enter into non-public session for matters of personnel. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to exit non-public session at 5:45 p.m. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning moved to seal the minutes of non-public session for a period of five years. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Heather McKillop spoke about community service and service learning as extremely important. Many students do engage in community service. It is important to build culture in a positive way and build upon that. Ms. McKillop spoke about the potential for a spring community service opportunity. Heather said that she is not advocating for having .5 less credit toward graduation. It could be added to the elective choice opportunity.

Keira Christian said that ELO credits have a minimum number of hours required to earn the credit. She said that it might be difficult for students who cannot drive until the half-way point of their high school career. Other obligations exist for students that might prevent them from this e.g. after school sibling care.

Stephen Ullman spoke about the possibility of offering this as an elective and how the proper supervision and accounting of time would be confirmed.

A staffing justification might be needed in the future.

Dick Dunning said that the policy might be suspended until the Board has time to address it and have something in place. Are we looking at a credit or a graduation requirement?

If the students were going to take one day a year, how would participation be confirmed?

Ann Forrest suggested bringing forward a recommendation to revise the policy to eliminate that credit and the high school will look at implementing service learning into courses during the year. The high school could be charged with coming back with a plan.

Heather McKillop said that it is important to our community that we provide or create service learning opportunities.

What suspending the policy would look like was discussed to allow further review at the high school.

Dick Dunning suggested suspending the policy for one year to allow time to reconsider the policy. Right now, since the policy is known now, it would be required.

Requiring a half credit outside of the school day was unheard of and does not have a way to grade it, or have a certified teacher to oversee it.

Stephen Ullman suggested a motion that the Ed Committee move to suspend this particular requirement while the high school further review. The suspension language balanced with language that the high school will review is proposed.

Ann Forrest said that she is worried about suspending the policy because it is our graduation policy.

A temporary suspension of the policy until the end of the school year to allow the high school to bring a recommendation to the board to address the requirement of a half credit for community service was suggested.

Ann Forrest said that clarity is, as of right now, for the high school and district leadership to come forward to take the half credit out and the plan is to integrate it into courses and to offer special events around community service.

Dick Dunning said that we would suspend the half credit for community service and not the entire policy.

How much more of a plan does Education Committee want?

Putting language in the policy that mentions community service? Not a credit requirement but a graduation requirement.

Stephen Ullman said that he would like to get rid of the requirement but only if we have a lengthy list of community service opportunities.

Ann Forrest said that we have to suspend this piece until it is revised.

The Education Committee recommends that we suspend the half-credit requirement for Service Learning/Community Service for the 2021-2022 academic year, moreover, the Ed committee recommends that the future of community service activities be reviewed. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Dick Dunning said that we believe in community service and we want kids to participate, and we need to communicate that.

- US Citizenship Test - Per [NH HB320](#), students graduating from high school in the 2023-2024 year and following years will be required to pass the 2020 US Citizenship Test as a part of their requirements to graduate high school.

Greg Leonard said that a requirement by the State of NH for students to take a US Citizenship Test beginning in the 2023-2024 year and following years per NH HB320 is in place. Greg said that there is no plan for special instruction for the test. There are other opportunities to prepare.

The State of NH has not provided any funding for this requirement.

There are in school and out of school opportunities to take this test in Mr. Leonard's proposal.

There is no credit requirement. It would be a graduation requirement starting with this year's Sophomore class.

A recommendation to review Policy IKF and consider adding the requirement of the US Citizenship Test Requirement was made. Greg's proposal document could be added as an appendix.

The Ed Committee recommends that the Policy Committee consider the proposal as a result of the new State requirement.

6:00 Assessment Schedule for 2021-2022

- [Policy ILBA - Assessment of Educational Programs](#) states “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.”

Policy ILBA reflects the above statement. The assessment schedule comes in the fall.

The 2021-2022 Assessment Schedule was shared. It was broken down by fall, winter, and spring and by level e.g. elementary, middle, and high school.

The Board has now received the schedule as a result of the dissemination of the Education Committee agenda and back-up.

6:15 2021-2022 Proposed Timeline for Education Committee Meetings

Ann Forrest shared a tentative timeline for future Education Committee meetings. It maps out topics that need to be covered. It provides a framework and can be adjusted and added to moving forward.

Service Learning/Community Service will be added to the timeline. Looking at a March opportunity to present to the board was suggested.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok