

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

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, November 15, 2021

5:30 PM

Physical Location: Great Brook Middle School

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

**Present:** Richard Dunning, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Ann Forrest, Amy Janoch, Kat Foecking, Keira Christian

Stephen Ullman called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**5:30 Approval of October 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of October 18, 2021. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

**5:35 Student Performance Data**

Last year's state assessment as well as NWEA data was shared.

The NH Social Economic Status data was reviewed. This data is associated with students on Free and Reduced Lunch.

NWEA Reading Data by Grade was reviewed and discussed.

Keira Christian asked about the pattern, if there is one, where a student is below proficiency in math testing but consistently receives an "A" in math.

Dick Dunning spoke about comparing NWEA data and what is not correctly answered on the test and how those questions compare to what is being instructed. Is it a curriculum issue or instruction issue? Subcategories can be drilled down to but not to that level. The test responds to how the student answers.

Stephen Ullman asked if there was something going on with fifth grade math instruction that deserves attention.

It was noted that math instruction was challenging during remote instruction.

Amy Janoch spoke about how the problem is being addressed.

Dick Dunning said that this has been a problem for a long time. What does the data tell us about our instructional practices? We brought in OGAP that was supposed to help our teachers with instructional practices. Where are the changes? If we are going to make decisions based on data, where are the changes that have been effective? Or, is it not effective anywhere?

Is it consistency of practice, or program, or instruction that has changed? Dick Dunning said that students would arrive South Meadow at the fifth-grade level with concerns in math and leave after grade eight back on track. Where has it gone astray?

Dick said that consolidation of instruction allows for consistency. What changes have been made in instruction to impact the data? From this point forward, we need to address the shortages in instructional practices in math.

Dr. Ann Forrest said that she wants to bring this back to the administrative team to get an answer. The impact on the math program and OGAP, along with patterns in subcategories in tests, will be asked about.

Keira Christian asked if we are trying to teach students math at an age where they are not ready.

Stephen Ullman asked if we are not balanced to do as well because of the demographic layout of our district. Ann Forrest said that we are not doing as well as other districts laid out similarly. Comparatively speaking are we failing our economically disadvantaged students? Ann Forrest said that she can bring data back from other districts. She said that the structure of our district concerns her. We have had significant turnover where some of our smaller schools do not have veteran teachers in their buildings to provide support. Discussion took place about individual approaches to teaching.

## **6:00 District Policies Referred to Educ. Committee by the Policy Committee**

- [District Policy IK - Earning of Credit](#)
  - Revisions needed per 2021 enactment of RSA 193-E:3-f (HB182)

As an example, is an “A” in a VLAC course the same as an “A” in a ConVal course?

Ann Forrest said that we do not have an issue with this. The revised NHSBA refers to “approved schools”.

Do all schools run on competencies? Are they the same?

The NHSBA version should be reviewed before continuing.

Ann agreed to develop suggestions for Ed Committee to consider.

Dick Dunning said that he simply wants to know what policy change recommendations are being asked.

The new policy incorporates elements of the law.

How should we proceed? Ann Forrest will bring forward a revised version for suggestion.

- [District Policy IMBC - Alternative Credit Options](#)
  - Revisions needed per 2021 passage of RSA 193-E:3-f (HB182)

Stephen Ullman shared the differences that are included in the NHSBA version that are not in the ConVal policy.

Ann Forrest will bring forward what she would propose for this policy.

- [District Policy IHCD/LEB - Advanced Coursework](#)
  - Revisions needed per (a) 2021 amendment to RSA 188-E:26, (b) 2019 N.H. Laws Ch. 322 (SB 276), (c) RSA 188-E:28, and (d) 2017 N.H. Laws 210 (SB 101).

Ann Forrest said that she will bring forward a recommendation for this policy as well.

Discussion took place about detailed, specific language in the policy that may tie hands.

Dick Dunning went back to the math issue and recognized that it is not a simple issue. He shared his worry that students may not be reached because of the structure of the district. He added that he is in favor of consolidation to address learning. He is more worried about not reaching students and less about money.

**Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok