

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 10, 2022

5:30 PM

Physical Location: SAU Boardroom

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

Present: Stephen Ullman, Tom Burgess, Dick Dunning, Keira Christian, Dr. Ann Forrest, Janine Lesser, Terri Drogue

5:30 Approval of November 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021. Tom Burgess second. Tom Burgess abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

5:35 Policy IKF - High School Graduation

- Service Learning/Community Service Requirement
- 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.

Dr. Forrest said that the hope is that Policy IKF can be updated and reviewed to bring forward to committee. It is currently suspended pending this work.

Dick Dunning moved to approve the draft of IKF – High School Graduation. Tom Burgess second.

Ann Forrest reported that the high school has a plan in place to address the Civics Exam requirement for graduation.

Dick Dunning suggested preparing students for this requirement beginning at the eighth grade to encourage them to take this seriously.

Ann Forrest further said that the Social Studies Curriculum Renewal has been put on hold for several years. The State standards are outdated. Social Studies teachers need to come together to look at alignment to make sure that ConVal is vertically aligned.

High schools had to develop a competency assessment of United States government and civics. Tom Burgess said that the drive in New York was to standardize it across the state. It is difficult to do on a local level.

Stephen Ullman said that he is interested in learning how a student can demonstrate competency in certain subject areas.

Ann Forrest said that all policies referenced within this policy will come forward for review as well.

Terri Drogue said that one possible change is in the area of Science. The table reflects the three (3) credits required. Biological Science or Life Science might be used in place of Living Science. What is preferred?

Keira Christian suggested using "Life Science". She said that she interprets "Living" to mean "Biology". If we know the this is what it means, she is fine with keeping it as stated.

Terri Drogue said that she likes to be consistent with the DOE, which states "Biological Science".

Janine second. Unanimous.

Under paragraph "B. Passage of Civics Exam" in the second paragraph "Effective for students graduating in 2024,....." will be replaced with "Starting with the graduating class in 2024..."

Ann Forrest spoke about the current requirement for .5 credit for Service Learning/Community Service. We would like to move away from an official half credit and more to a core value by integrating opportunities into classes, co-curriculars, sports, and after school activities. The high school brainstormed what different type of community service opportunities are available.

Keira Christian said that she fully supported not having community service as a credit bearing requirement.

In the proposed draft, the elective offerings were upped from 8.5 to 9.0 credits.

This needs to go back to policy once voted.

Dick Dunning moved the presented draft to Policy Committee for approval. Tom Burgess second. Unanimous.

Proposed CVHS Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 School Year

The above discussion needs to be approved before it can be included in the Program of Studies. The majority of changes are additional information for clarity.

Terri Drogue shared updates in some of the changes underway in the ATC area. This will inform students and parents about how these lead to jobs. Bridging the gap for students to envision what jobs might be possible is the aim.

Oceanography and Environmental Science may be offered in the future. These are courses that were offered in the past but not recently as a result of staffing.

The English Department "Interpersonal Communication" course name changes to read "Introduction to Communication" was proposed. The thought is that students may not understand what the course is. This clarifies.

Some courses run alternate years e.g. AP Biology and AP Chemistry

Discussion took place about setting a minimum enrollment number for a course to run. Further discussion was requested for the future.

Running a class size with five students in one area but not another level was seen as an inequity.

Class size guideline policies were revised to include a statement that there will be a review when class sizes falls outside of the guidelines. Minimums have not been set.

A note that says that classes that fall below class size recommendations will be considered.

Dick Dunning said that there must be some sense where we stand with class size before June.

Dick further shared his support for administration. If a minimum class size will help administration, he is in favor. He asked that administration tell the board what will make it easier and they will work for that. He asked if a minimum class size would be effective and helpful.

Terri Drogue said that students are asked for alternative class selections in the event that a class is full or does not run.

The social studies department has run a course called "Women's Studies" during 5th block (a block run after school). The request to run this as an option during the regular school day, should 5th block not continue, was made. A proposal with a description for this course would come forward should 5th block not move forward.

Visual and Performing Arts would like to adjust the instrumental methods. They feel it is redundant to work done in other classes. It is a standalone class and would like to table it for next year.

Concert Choir has two components; concert choir and select choir. There is also chamber choir as well as a standalone. Concert choir is broken into three sections. Select has after school requirements as well. Chamber Choir stands alone. The request is to collapse Chamber Choir.

Replacing the name "Intro to Music Theory and Keyboarding" to "Creative Keyboarding" was requested.

Change the weighting of several music classes; "Intro to Guitar" as well as "History of Rock and Roll" from 123 to 012 to give it a heavier weight was suggested. The thought is that students are missing out on music opportunity.

Tom Burgess said that he has no way to make a judgement on this request to know if it is appropriate. Keira Christian asked if they are currently weighted the same standard as other courses that anyone can take. Is it comparable to ART I or other entry courses? Is it the same weight or are they asking for it to be more? Other music and art entry courses are 012.

Ann Forrest said that there are very few courses that are at the lowest level. She asked that this go under further review.

Grade level classes that are core content (English Math, Science, and Social Studies) are 012. The music courses are 123.

Tom Burgess said that this seems very solvable. There should be a system to assign weight.

The committee gave Terri Drogue the nod to make the changes requested.

A future meeting should address the weighting.

Dick Dunning moved to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Keira Christian second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok