

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 21, 2022

5:30 PM

Physical Location: SAU Boardroom

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

- 5:30** Approval of [January 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- 5:35** Recommendation for Middle School Health Program
- 6:00** Review policies referred by the Policy Committee:
[Current Policy IHCD/LEB - Advanced Course Work](#)
[Current Policy IK - Earning Credit](#)
[Current Policy IMBC - Alternative Credit Options](#)

Next Education Committee Meeting

Date: March 21, 2022

Time: 5:30 PM

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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 The State standards are outdated.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

IHCD – Advanced Coursework

Any student who is capable of and wishes to do advanced course work or take advanced placement classes while in high school should be permitted to do so. School district administrators and guidance counselors will provide assistance to students who wish to enroll in such courses. If advanced course work or advanced placement courses are not available within the school district, administrators or guidance counselors are instructed to assist students in identifying alternative means of taking such classes. These means may include taking courses at a different public school or a private school, or through distance education courses or other suitable means.

Credit may be given, provided the course conforms to applicable District policies and state standards. The District will not be responsible for any tuition, fees, or other associated costs incurred by the student for enrollment in such courses.

This policy will be published annually in the High School Student Handbook.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.14(g), Advanced Course Work

Category: P

See also: IK, IKF, IMBA, IMBC, LEB

1st Read: September 15, 2015

2nd Read: October 6, 2015

Adopted: October 6, 2015

< IHCA - Summer Activity

IIB - Class Size (<https://schoolboard.convalsd.net/district-policies/iib-class-size/>)

IK – Earning Of Credit

Students can earn course credit by demonstrating proficiency/mastery of the required coursework and material. Mastery is defined as: sufficient evidence of attainment of the required content, concepts, and skills of a particular course. Student assessment of mastery is the responsibility of the building principal.

Credit will be awarded upon satisfactory demonstration and proficiency/mastery of the required course competencies. Additionally, credit may also be awarded if a student is able to demonstrate learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards.

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(14), Earning of Credit
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.14(f), Awarding of Credit
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.27(d), Mastery of Required Competencies

Category: *Priority/Required by Law*

1st Reading: December 2, 2008

2nd Reading: January 4, 2009

Adopted: January 4, 2009

< IJOC-R Volunteers

IKA - Grading System (<https://schoolboard.convalsd.net/district-policies/i-instructional-programs/ika-grading-system/>)

IMBC – Alternative Credit Options

The School Board encourages increased educational options for students. Credits may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the district schools. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal, and will be granted only if the request fulfills the following:

- The request is submitted with a plan to achieve competency that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic standards required by the school for students enrolled in a credit course offered by the school.
- The plan includes clear expectations for performance.
- The plan includes clearly defined methods and expectations for assessment.
- Verification of the plan's merit can be evaluated in a timely fashion and does not cause unnecessary burden of the resources of the administration.

Students earning credit via alternative methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program.

The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to establish regulations and procedures for implementing this policy that will include:

- Definitions of allowable alternative learning opportunities
- Reasonable limits on the number of approved alternative courses that can be administered each school year – school-wide and per student
- The number of alternative credits each student may use toward graduation requirements
- Application and approval process
- Criteria for determining which requests satisfy a particular subject area requirement
- Identification of person(s) responsible for approval, supervision, and monitoring progress
- Requirements that alternative opportunities meet the same rigorous academic outcomes as traditional classroom delivery
- Assurance of equal access for all students
- Assurance that approved alternative learning opportunities are consistent with all policies of the District
- The procedure will be made public on the ConVal District web site and within the ConVal Regional High School Student Handbook.

It is the policy of the Board that alternative methods for awarding of credit may include:

- Competency testing in lieu of enrollment under the provisions of Policy ILBAA
- Interdisciplinary credit
- Satisfactory completion of course requirements at another public school district, an approved private school, or a home-schooling experience

- Transfer of credits earned by students before enrolling in the district, such as student moving into New Hampshire from another state or country
- Extended Learning Opportunities under the provision of Policy IHBH
- Online/virtual learning opportunities under the provisions of Policy IMBA
- College Credit/Duel Credit
- Early College
- Middle School acceleration to the extent that the course work exceeds the requirements for seventh or eighth grade, is consistent with the related high school course(s), and the student achieves satisfactory standards of performance.

If the student demonstrates knowledge and abilities on a placement pre-test developed by the school district for a particular course, the student shall not receive credit for the course, but shall be allowed to take a more advanced level of the subject or an elective.

Funding

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent or his/her designee and approved by the Board, under ordinary circumstances students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses including tuition and textbooks. The District may pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take courses in alternative settings. If paid by the District, and the course is not completed, the student must reimburse the District for expenses.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(13), Alternative Means of Earning Credit

Ed 306.14(a)(14), Alternative Means Of Demonstrating Achievement Of Graduation Competencies

Ed 306.21, Alternative Programs

Category: P

See also IHBH, IHBI, ILBA, ILBAA

1st Reading: June 3, 2014

2nd Reading: August 19, 2014

Adopted: August 19, 2014