

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 19, 2022

5:30 PM

Physical Location: SAU Boardroom

Minutes

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

Present: Tom Burgess, Keira Christian, Richard Dunning, Stephen Ullman, Dr. Ann Forrest, Greg Kriebel, Janine Lesser, Patrick Cogan, Claire Fifield, Elizabeth Fortin, Ed Lowy, Brian Moore, Hannah Petrick, James Wickham, Amy Janoch, Kathie Morrocco

5:30 Approval of August 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Tom Burgess moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 2022. Keira Christian seconded. Dick Dunning abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

5:35 K-12 Music Curriculum Review and Renewal

The music department has been working on the K-12 curriculum for two years. This renewal is important because of the impact of COVID on the program. This area has a strong value for the arts.

The ConVal Music Department Mission was shared:

The music department's mission is to provide high-quality educational and performance opportunities for every student through use of the National Curriculum for Music and the National Core Arts Standards. Firm foundational skills in music are provided to prepare the whole student to be imaginative, confident and reflective; so that each student possesses a diverse understanding of cultural, social and intellectual learning through music to become successful 21st century citizens.

The Music Vision Statement was shared:

To develop informed and inquiring minds that enable each student to engage in creating, performing, responding, connecting, and diversifying their skills and their understanding of the world around them through music education.

The ConVal Music Department recently completed a Curriculum Review and Renewal to vertically align curriculum, meet state requirements (Ed 306) in terms of equipment and storage, and rebuild the department.

The impact of COVID on ConVal's Students were shared. The impacts included students being unable to participate in music programs. The primary method of music delivery was significantly impacted. Student trauma is present and ongoing. Students need ways to develop positive relationships and connections. Music is a direct frontline response to trauma. Music has a direct impact on all other learning. It promotes a sense of belonging and provides a safe space.

Learning Recovery Best Practices for Students Through Music includes Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills for academic success.

Moving forward, recruitment and retention plans for sustainability to attract and maintain new students were shared. Budgeting to support the needs of students, vertical collaboration K-12, field trips, and bringing in artists are a few of the ways that the department will incorporate.

The budgeting process will be a multi-year K-12 investment culminating in the 4-year curriculum renewal cycle.

The focuses for each of the five years in the cycle were shared. They included a focus on instruments at the elementary and middle school levels, elementary professional development, humidity improvements, professional development, and remodeling learning spaces.

Equipment and storage plans were outlined.

What is needed? The board approval of items identified for the 22-23 school year totaling \$60K.

When curriculum renewal is done, an amount of money is identified.

Dick Dunning said that the board approves a specific amount of money but not approve the specific items. He asked why?

Ann Forrest said that typically the board approves the program. This is different but would be a good idea. She agreed to double check the process. Dick Dunning said that it is worth having clarification on.

How would you classify the current music storage area? Definitely lacking storage to put things away and store properly.

Is there money planned for storage? No. Is there funding available for this purpose? There has been damage to instruments due to inadequate storage. Considering the planned renovation to middle schools and the high school, portable storage might be considered.

In terms of humidity control, there is none. Instruments have rusted.

What would the plan for funding be in each of the five years? It would fluctuate.

Dick Dunning spoke highly about music programming, the challenges in scheduling, and the importance of it all.

Tom Burgess spoke about the continuing impact of COVID on singers. He asked what the impact and thoughts were.

Masking is optional, distancing when students are sick, open dialogue about vocal health and protocols is all underway. Music does not carry any greater risk than the teaching of other subjects.

Under the current scheduling systems, reference was made to choral and instrumental education. Scheduling is different at every grade level for music. The performing ensembles could have better scheduling for sustainability and performance reasons.

Have scheduling suggestions been offered to building administration? Yes, just today, a schedule survey came out to gather input. Block schedule has caused restrictive access to music classes. Equity access is an issue for music programming.

Ann Forrest said that the high school is scheduled to come to the Education Committee to discuss scheduling. There is no perfect schedule. Is the block schedule the best? There are not enough students at the high school to offer certain courses multiple times during the day e.g. Advanced Placement courses.

Are any of the band opportunities or ensemble offerings offered after school or at night? Yes, there are opportunities at both the middle and high school level.

What would be the number one equity issue in offering programming to students? The block schedule is one obstacle. There are better schedules.

Those present for discussion on this topic exited the meeting.

6:15 Review of 2022 Summer Programs

Amy Janoch and Kathie Morrocco shared information about summer programming and Learning K-8.

The Explore and Expand/Middle School Summer Academy provided a hands-on academic learning opportunity for all students. It reinforced essential skills in math and literacy to accelerate learning and close learning gaps. It focused on providing enriching experiences through residencies and unit studies.

The Title I Discovery Summer Program was offered to grades 1-5 at the elementary schools receiving Title I funding: AES, Pierce, FES and PES. Open attendance allowed for family schedules, camps, and appointments. It had a focus on strengthening student skills in reading with a community connection.

How many students enrolled in the summer program?

138 enrolled K-8 with 107 attending. Attendance was shared. It was a four-week program, three days a week in the mornings which helped increase attendance.

Math Instructional Resource information was shared as well as ELA Instructional Resources and Title 1 Reading Instructional Resources.

Residencies and active learning opportunities and student projects were highlighted.

Title I Kindergarten and Grade 1 Reading Foundational Skills Progress was shared as well as that for grades 2-4. Literacy progress for grades 1-4 was shared as well.

Middle school literacy progress resulted in an increased vocabulary as it relates to stories read and an increase in the ability to identify main ideas and details when reading fiction.

Grade 3 and 4 fraction progress reflected substantial gains.

Survey information was shared post program.

When considering future programming, continuing a flexible enrollment was important. Continuing with three days a week for four weeks was seen as the sweet spot. Instruction in both reading and math and also activity-based learning was valuable. An early start with planning and communication with families and staff was beneficial.

Do we need to expand this programming? There has to be a larger population that could benefit.

Surveying all of the students that were identified and didn't attend to learn what the barriers are was suggested.

6:45 Policy IKL- Academic Integrity and Honesty

This policy is an optional policy and discussion was deferred until next month's meeting.

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Keira Christian seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok