

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 19, 2022

5:30 PM

Physical Location: SAU Boardroom

Minutes

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

Present: Dick Dunning, Michael Hoyt, Dr. Ann Forrest, Andria Johnson, Carolann Tebbetts, Stephen Ullman, Tyler Mudrick, Heather McKillop, Deb Riley, Janine Lesser

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

5:30 Approval of November 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Dick Dunning moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting. Tom Burgess seconded. Unanimous.

5:35 High School Schedule

Heather McKillop, CVHS Principal, said that the Schedule Committee is one committee at the high school. We are preparing students for their future. We need to think about what we value. Core beliefs factor in. As we evaluate different models of schedules, we need to think about what is best for all students.

The Core Beliefs were shared, of which there were three.

The Schedule Committee membership was shared.

The established ConVal Schedule was shared. It is a 4 by 4 block schedule with a flex block. It was established in 1995. Reviews of the schedule have occurred periodically with no changes made. There have also been some later start time efforts with no changes made. In addition, a transition to competencies was made.

Overarching questions:

What, if any, is the best schedule that equitably meets the needs of all students, programs, and content areas?

Reflective practice is essential for growth. Is our current 4 by 4 block schedule still our best option for students? Considerations include looking at how students learn best

post-pandemic, does the current schedule meet the needs of our students? Does it provide the optimal learning environment? Is there a better schedule?

Timeline of Tasks:

Fall/Winter 21-22 - committee members analyzed our current schedule, researched and reviewed various daily bell schedules from other New Hampshire schools.

Winter 21/22 - began communication with other schools regarding pros/cons of their schedules.

Staff surveys were created regarding scheduling. Progress was sent out. It was sent out again in the Fall of 2022 to capture new staff input. Data was compiled. A community, parent survey was drafted and sent out; data is still being collected and analyzed.

67% of staff are in favor of exploring other schedule options. Ideal class length ranged from 60 to 80 minutes. The TASC period was seen as vital and best in the middle of the day.

TASC was devised in 2010/2011 and is offered 5 days a week. It is a multi-functional flex block that combines Tier I relearning, retaking assessments, social emotional supports, enrichments and extensions. The intent is to provide extra time for academic support.

Benefits of the current 4 by 4 semester - schedule and drawbacks were shared.

Benefits include longer classes allowing a deeper dive into content, projects etc. Classes such as science and music and CTE benefit. Less overwhelming for students to only have four classes per day. Can earn up to 32 credits in four years with only 26 credit requirements to graduate.

Drawbacks included a difficult semester transition for students who start to build positive relationships with teachers, course offerings and electives can be limited, students can experience learning gaps of up to a year in subjects where repetition and practice are essential to maintain skills, students involved in extra-curricular activities that require an early dismissal miss the same class, and some students report a struggle maintaining focus and attention during an 80-minute block.

95% of schools use late start/early dismissal for collaboration opportunities. There are plenty of options for scheduling.

The current A/B Pilot Block - Pre-Algebra and English 9 provides all year instruction. Co-taught class with general education and special education teachers, provides the opportunity for year-long student/teacher relationships to develop, provides all year instruction in the most critical content building areas, provides a stronger foundation for student connections and growth, and the A/B meets twice monthly with a select group of administrators to review data.

Things to consider and next steps include the impact of our potential scheduling changes on the Regional CTE Agreement. Earlier this month, a survey was sent to community members and data is still coming in. Additional research is needed as well

as establishing a parent partnership group to work with the Schedule Committee among others.

How will the schedule impact standardized testing? This is one of the items that will be discussed with other schools to see how they manage them.

Dick Dunning shared that he is impressed with the work of the Scheduling Committee.

6:15 Other & Adjourn

Dick Dunning motioned to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok