

Education Committee Minutes

March 17, 2003

Attending: Tom Welden, Any Paul, Keith Burke, Barbara Busenbark, Coleen Stone, Joe MacGregor, Richard Morel, Ray Coté, Dick Dunning, Rick Nanicelli, Christie Greene, Denise Holmes, Paul Bartolomucci, Marie-Claire Wheeler, Ali Pantasco, Sarah Krapol, Ken Young, Elizabeth Daniels, Diane Goodman, Craig Hicks

Foreign Language:

Foreign language curriculum review will begin this summer in keeping with our cycle of program review. Next year there will be a proposal for how foreign languages should be taught, at what grade levels and what languages should be taught. There will also be an evaluation of the language lab for an upgrade. The budget committee will be looking for an estimate at the earliest date possible. The high school technology committee is helping in this process.

ConVal High School

ConVal offers French, German and Spanish at levels 1-5. All language classes use authentic situations, conversations, language labs, videos and interactive activities.

Enrollments:

French - 140 students - 1.5 teachers

German - 122 students - 1.5 teachers

Spanish - 345 students - 3 teachers

The lower level classes (levels 1-2) tend to be large, especially in Spanish. Class sizes will be larger next year as well. Students are encouraged to repeat level 1 language courses due to the difficulty in acquiring the amount of information required in the block format. This also helps account for the large class sizes. Between levels 3 and 4 there is a transitional course. For students who have not had their foreign language in consecutive semesters there is an intensive review period at the beginning of each semester. French and Spanish have feeder programs from the middle schools, German does not.

ConVal students have placed very high over the past few years on National Language Exams, many placing in the top 10% nationwide in French and German.

Students have recently started enrolling in more than one foreign language. This seems to be gaining momentum.

South Meadow School/Great Brook School

Because of the difficulty in GBS finding foreign language teachers, the SMS French and Spanish teachers have had to do double duty. Level 1 is being offered at GBS and SMS. There are 84 Spanish students at SMS and 8 at GBS. There are 24 French students at SMS and 10 at GBS. The foreign language classes at GBS start before the advisory period because it is the only time it can fit into the schedule. At both schools students needed to "test into" the program. Because of the teacher shortage there were no exploratory foreign languages offered this year at either middle school. Approximately 80% of the foreign language students will be ready for level 2 classes at the high school.

Paul will be bringing forward a proposal later this year for the middle school programs since this year's program was set up as a short term fix.

Suspensions:

Elem		Middle	F
# of students	20	75 (in and out of house)	4
percentage of population	2%	7%	3
# of incidents (03)	22	111 (in and out)	7
01-02	22	51	1
00-01	3	51	1

Long term suspensions:

8 Alcohol/Drugs

2 Chronic Misbehavior

Education Committee

Topic Schedule Review

Please e-mail me (bbusenbark@paintbrushgraphics.com) with any topics you would like to see brought back to the Ed. Committee for further review. A shift in focus from more topics to fewer topics covered in greater depth can begin as soon as a list is compiled of topics. If you would like to include questions you would like reviewed with those topics, please feel free to include them as well. Otherwise question will be solicited when the topics are chosen.