

Education Committee Minutes

April 28

Attending: Craig Hicks, Brian Tourgee, Paul Bartolomucci, Joe Hayes, Sue Dell, Ken Young, Ray Coté, Denise Holmes, Dick Dunning, Andy Paul, Christy Greene, Keith Burke, Barbara Busenbark

CVHS Scheduling:

The process of scheduling classes is a long and difficult one. The first step is discussing options with students by grade level. The 8th grade students are visited by the high school guidance counselors by advisory. There are few choices for freshmen but a thorough explanation and instructions are given concerning their choices. The upperclassmen are given instruction in larger groups. This year the advisor teachers were given training in assisting students in the process. Also students had to receive signatures from each of their teachers concerning their choices for electives.

Once the information has been gathered from the students that data is input into scheduling software. At that point a course tally is run to get the number of students who have signed up for each class. In this way determinations can be made as to what courses will be offered and how many sections are needed. Projections of these numbers are made based on the previous years totals. These projections have proved to be fairly accurate with changes being made after the actual numbers have been gathered.

The number of sections, the class size and the addition or subtracting of courses is made based on the requests made by students with required courses given the highest priority. Classes which offer a culmination of a program are also given a priority that is not necessarily based on numbers. The level of the class (010, 012, 123), the physical limitations of a room (#of lab stations) and the recommended number of students based on best practices are considerations in determining the number of students in a class.

Once all the information has been input and necessary changes have been made a master schedule is made. Staff members also have input into this schedule. Notices are sent out to students of their schedules on August 1. Changes can be made at the request of students before school starts.

Drop Out Rates

Reasons for withdrawal:

- Moved
- placement by courts or school district
- transferred to different high school
- removal from rolls after 16 continuous days of absence
- move to ADP program
- Job Corps
- GED
- did not return after long term suspension
- medical reasons

Over the last 5 years the percentage of students dropping out has been between 6-12%.

The state of New Hampshire only looks at the number of students who withdraw in senior year. That is the number we are required to submit to the state. With students dropping out in Sophomore and Junior years as well we asked that these numbers be included as well for a better understanding of the ways of our student population.

Because there are a great many complexities that enter into trying to keep a student in school who has any number of issues confronting him or her we will be looking at the anonymous profile of such a student in order to better see all the issues and time which the school puts into trying to keep a student in school.

We will also have a follow-up discussion on the trends of students grades.

Next meeting:

May 5

1. Sped Program at Pierce School
2. Preschool Program
3. SPED at ConVal High School