

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, June 18, 2007

7:00 P.M.

SAU Office

MINUTES

Attendees: Beverly Bacon, Mary Loftis, Mary Allen, Stewart Brock, Gail Cromwell, Bart Goodeve, Bill McKinnon, Ray Cote, Arthur Knight, Craig Hicks, Tom Welden, Linda Potter, Marian Alese, Keith Burke, Dick Bergeron, Dick Dunning, Sue Dell, Chet Bowles

Beverly Bacon called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Beverly asked that all introduce themselves for the benefit of Mr. Dick Bergeron present tonight.

1. Approval of Minutes

➤ **Meeting of May 21, 2007**

Tom Welden moved to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2007 meeting. Stewart Brock second. Gail Cromwell, Ray Cote, Arthur Knight, Craig Hicks and Mary Loftis abstained. All else in favor.

2. Updates

➤ **NECAP**

Keith Burke distributed Topics for the Education Committee Agenda and 2006 Adequate Yearly Progress Reports as they exist right now (See attachments #1 and #2). Keith said that last fall testing took place in grades three through eight. Keith provided this information as a base. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) will be determined in August based on a growth model. The Federal Government hasn't accepted the growth model as of yet. It would be a compelling argument if the growth model showed positive evidence. Keith said when you make AYP under Safe Harbor or Confidence Interval (CI) that enough improvement has been made. They are both right on the edge. As time goes on the bar keeps rising until it reaches 100%. Keith said that we are going to see more and more schools not meet the requirements. Keith reviewed each of the school's information. GBS did not meet AYP in both reading and math. SMS made them both with both Safe Harbor and CI, therefore they too are on the edge. Keith said that the elementary schools are not performing quite as well as the middle schools. CVHS tested in 2005.

Stewart asked the definition of Socioeconomically disadvantaged. Keith said that it is the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch.

Keith said that we know what individual kid's scores are. We can work with those students.

Keith said that he took all of the scores from testing this fall and grid the results on page 16 of attachment #2.

Gail said that when looking on the State website they have changed the meaning of “Partially Proficient” to mean “not ready for the next grade”. She asked if anyone has heard of this. None had. She said that we need to look at our policy of passing kids through. Keith said that this is

one test in a short period of time. It is a snapshot. We need to look at the kids more individually. He said that it is an indicator

Bart Goodeve asked if it was clear what the cause was and what is needed to get a positive result. Keith said that we had some additional funding years ago to provide some additional support for the testing. ConVal High School took their money and focused on the students that needed the most help and focused on content. The middle schools focused on test taking technique. The middle schools saw a positive result. The focus needs to be in the elementary schools.

Gail Cromwell observed that compared to the State we do better in reading rather than in mathematics. She asked what we were going to do about that. Keith said that he did not have an answer. He did say that the focus should be more on a child to child analysis. If he had a choice, he felt that reading was more important.

Dick Bergeron asked for historical data to track cohorts. Keith said that we have historical data but it isn't an apples to apples comparison. Progress can be measured when looking at the item analysis on an individual student.

Ray Cote said that as we get into higher grades the percentages look better. He added that the bar on the math is lower than that of the reading. He added that we would like to position ourselves as a very good school district. We should target ourselves that way. We need to be able to say that our test results are above State level. Ray said that it has to be a long term goal. Keith predicted that we will start to see the school districts that perform well not perform as well when looking at growth and vice versa. Gail asked why. Keith responded that when you look at growth people get credit for moving groups of kids further. Larger groups get more credit for small amounts of effort while smaller groups get less credit.

➤ **ATC**

Sue Dell said that these are projections for the coming year. Chet Bowles, ATC Director, said that numbers are reflected under the IN/WAIT/OUT columns.

Joe Hayes ran the numbers of what it would look like for the upcoming year. Chet said that the Automotive Program is taught at Mascenic. We will have 15 students in the program in the upcoming year. There is a growth. The application process is completed in Guidance and then Lynnette Fagnan interviews with the students. Students are selected on the basis of seriousness in the program. There is a wait list which is often filled.

Craig asked how many applied for each of the programs. Nineteen was the response. Sue Dell said that the seven that were turned away were turned for substantive reasons.

Chet said that Multi Media is taught at Mascenic. Forensics currently has no applicants.

Culinary is taught in various locations in the area. Anatomy and Physiology is the most popular.

Gail Cromwell asked for an explanation of the 30/10. Chet said that 30 had it as a high priority request and 10 as a low priority. Chet continued to review his handout (See attachment # 3).

Gail Cromwell asked if the projections were for the whole year. Chet confirmed that they were for the whole year. Gail said that some of these courses are not filling for example, Marketing or Business Law. She asked if we have given consideration to offering them every other year.

Mary Loftis said that actual enrollment numbers are not yet arrived at. Sue Dell said that actual numbers can be looked at in the fall. They do not reflect final numbers. Gail said that the Business Teachers are tied up in the Computers and Health class. Chet said that in Accounting I 46 students took the course. He expects to see a similar situation. He said that the numbers provided are first passes at the numbers.

Stewart asked Chet if he had historical data to identify trends on enrollment. Chet said that we have enrollment records for many many years. Gail wondered if the real problem is you get kids who really want to take a course coupled with those that don't really want the class as much. Chet said that we will run one semester of "Corner of the House" next year. The move of the Alternative Program makes this possible. The funding will be through Perkins and counted as an elective class under the Building Trades Program. It was not advertised because we were not sure of the space. Chet said that the plan is that the first group of students will build the learning stations that will be used in the class. There has been discussion of sharing this with two other schools. Mascenic was not interested. Conant might do this themselves therefore it is currently ConVal only. Eric Wiest is certified to teach this course. He is currently the Photo Tech teacher which will mean that not as many opportunities for photo will be available. Chet said that if "Corner of the House" goes well a staffing request might be seen in the future. He anticipates that sophomores who complete this course might go on to Building Trades. Chet said for each "Corner of the House" course of fifteen students we lose the opportunity to teach forty students Phototech.

Tom said that because he is teaching three blocks rather than six blocks we are potentially losing one-half a position. Chet said that is essentially correct.

Tom said that we would not be missing the finances because of the Perkins funding. Sue explained that a math class is being dismantled as part of the space for the "Corner of the House" program. It is a class that is housed in the current Alt Ed area.

Chet said that Cosmetology has come up several times as a point of interest. The only way he sees this possible is through apprenticeships. We anticipate that there are three people interested in following this through its logical completion. If the students decides after an internship, that this is something that they want to further pursue they can continue on and pay the \$45.00 fee. 325 hours is necessary which is the equivalent of a full year, one block course. It is specifically laid out to the number of hours required in an orientation. A shop would have to invest time and money. The student is not allowed to touch a person. The student will have accumulated 325 hours toward their apprentice.

Sue reviewed her handout (See attachment #4) titled Careers of Interest. She said that competencies have to be developed for each of the courses.

➤ **Graduate Survey – Futuristics**

Tom asked if Futuristics was moving forward. Sue Dell confirmed that it was.

➤ **4 Year Career Education Plan for Students (Career Cruising & Guidance)**

Gail asked if Career Cruising identified the salaries associated with specific jobs. Beverly Bacon said that it asks a series of questions about interests and does not discuss salary. Further research provides salary information.

➤ **Health Curriculum – CVHS**

Sue said that the Computers and Health is being dismantled. A Health Teacher will be hired to teach freshman a quarter credit of health. Ray asked for a schedule of the plan to dismantle computers and health. He asked if we replaced computers and health in the NASA Lab with another computer course in the lab. He asked which course would be taught. Sue said that we have courses that we have been waiting to teach. Ray asked for the plan for the use of the NASA Lab. Sue said that entering freshman have a half-credit of computers required. Ray thought that it would be driven down to the middle schools. Chet said that the State requirements have changed and students must receive half-credit at the high school. Sue Dell said that competencies must be demonstrated therefore students can take a higher level computer course.

Ray asked if this could be a programming course. The reply was that it could be. Ray said he is confused about the half credit. He asked if this was a new half credit. He asked for clarification. Keith said that Ray outlined the initial plan. The State changed it to say that it could not be driven down to the middle schools and must be met at the high school. The Board has adopted a method to acquire credit through alternative means. The Board currently allows this to happen for physical education credit. It could be expanded to include computer education. We cannot call a middle school course a high school course. We could broaden the alternative credit policy to allow certain things to happen. If a student passes a test credit could be granted. Sue further outlined her handout.

Craig asked if there was any way to quantify what students take at home. He said that we should figure out how many students are taking courses on-line. Sue said that it is not as high as one might think. If a student fails a course they can take an on-line course and pay for it themselves. Craig said that the Curriculum committee talked about this. Craig said that eleven hundred students will not have to go through this class. Ray said that if we could ask Sue Dell to come back to discuss the end game of this process and what that course or courses would be executed would look like. He suggested an introduction to computer programming.

Tom Welden said that many are surprised that the credit had to come up to the high school. Secondly, he said that Sue said that she is aware of other courses that are desired to be taught and he requested that she bring them forward.

Gail Cromwell said that we talked at one point about an exam that one would take to demonstrate proficiency in a subject. Sue and Chet said that we currently have tests in place to test for proficiency.

Ray said that it would be interesting to have course offerings discussed with the driver being how teachers will incorporate this into their instruction.

3. Wellness Policy (See attached GBEGA)

Marian said that we have to complete full implementation by 2009. She included the definition of what needs to be done. We have a number of individuals that will be contacted throughout the community inviting participation. The next part is talking about how curriculum needs to be changed. Vending machine and physical activity discussion needs to take place. It is present tonight so that it remains in front of us.

Gail said that when transfat is referred to we should be at "0". We should consume no transfat. Marian said that this was developed based on the guidelines in place at the time. There will be some changes.

Keith questioned that there should be no more than 35% weight in added sugar. Marian said that certainly we will have less but the document states that it can be no more than 35%.

Craig said that there is a two-year out window and agreed with Gail that we should try to forecast what the guideline might be and be proactive. Marian said that the Health Council will have this charge. The Board does not have to take this on.

Bill McKinnon asked if we couldn't move all of the percentages down to procedures so that policy could remain and the procedures could be changed as needed.

Dick Bergeron distributed samples of policy language and procedure. (See North Andover Health and Wellness Policy)

In addition Dick brought a study on the importance of graduation (See attachment #5).

4. LEIP

Linda Potter suggested that everyone should become familiar with the LEIP. She is looking for suggestions and comments on this. It expires this year.

5. Draft Graduation Policy

Linda Potter said that a high school graduation policy has been done. For her Special Education students they were not given the same access. It should be included in the statement.

Gail distributed a copy of the High School Graduation Policy (See attachment # 5) She said that we should add in Linda's information in this. Linda said that this is Gail's request and not hers because it has not come before the Board yet.

Gail said that one credit in World history is required at Coeval and only one-half credit for the State. Gail said that we have not voted on the electives or when this would go into effect.

Linda said that if we add the special education access to the regular diplomas this discussion will further come up at an Education Committee.

Bart asked Linda if she sees a dark side to this language. Linda said that it allows equal opportunity access to all students.

Gail asked Linda where the phraseology should appear in the policy or somewhere else. Keith said that it should be in the policy.

Mary clarified that this needed to be brought forward to the full board and voted on. It was confirmed.

6. NEAS&C

Linda said that the mission statement should be fully supported by the Board. Any questions should be brought forward.

7. Other

Tom Welden said that we are having a small Board meeting component after the Budget and Property tomorrow evening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok