

**CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, NH, 03458-1197**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, October 29, 2007  
7:00 P.M.  
SAU Office

MINUTES

**Attendees:** Beverly Bacon, Mary Allen, Ray Cote, Butch Estey, Bart Goodeve, Craig Hicks, Arthur Knight, Mary Loftis, Bill McKinnon, Tom Welden, Dick Bergeron, Don Johnson, Marian Alese, Linda Potter, Chet Bowles, Sue Copley, Sue Dell, Dick Dunning, Joe Hayes, Tim Iwanowicz, Gib West, Jeanie West

Beverly Bacon called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

➤ Meeting of September 24, 2007

**Craig Hicks moved to accept the minutes of the September 24, 2007 meeting. Arthur Knight second. Mary Allen and Bill McKinnon abstained.** Linda Potter was present at this meeting but her name was omitted from those present. **Unanimous.**

Beverly Bacon read an invitation from Ali Pantesco, CVHS German teacher, about an Austrian exchange dinner. She invited the Board to a dinner with the students on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00.

2. Class Size – Philosophy/History/Discussion

To Develop Consistent Program Philosophy

Bev said that she would like class size discussion among committee and Board members to begin tonight. She opened the discussion to Don Johnson. Don said that he would like to hear the Board's perspective based on histories about class size.

Dick said that lower class size is suspected to have a positive impact only in lower grades. Student performance relative to class size is almost non-existent in higher grades. Teachers have an opportunity to provide differentiated instruction and assess performance with smaller classes. The discussion about how we envision our classrooms to operate must be discussed.

Bart Goodeve said that the school environments in the middle schools and elementary schools are much different. We need to pick a place to begin to examine this. He thought that the middle schools were a good place to begin.

Tom Welden said that class size has been driven by the physical plant size. We could not have larger class sizes if we did not have the physical space.

Mary Loftis said that in middle school and high school, the discipline should be considered. Art classes might be larger than English classes.

Ray Cote asked if we had a district wide goal of what we are aiming for today.

Don said that he did not believe we had a district wide policy.

Dick said that there is myth that we support twenty students.

Craig Hicks said that the elementary schools have a certain curriculum that must be taught. The middle school is similar. The dialogue should take place about the high school. He said that we have some classes that are full, with many students, and others that are slim in numbers. He asked how this is reconciled.

Dick said that it would be good to invite the CVLT to discuss this matter. The decision has a ripple effect.

Bart asked what we were trying to get to.

Dick said that the culture of a classroom changes when you approach twenty-five students in a classroom. The challenges change when this number is approached.

Bart asked if other districts actively manage the number. Dick said that when you create a requirement you face the consequence of that decision.

Space allocation reflects on the number.

Sue Dell will speak with CVLT and come up with a date to meet.

Mary Allen asked if we would be looking at arriving at what the acceptable number of students in a class would be.

Ray suggested that the focus be on both the elementary and middle schools.

Bart said that the best lab for this is at the middle schools.

Dick invited the middle school administration to address the Board. Team teaching numbers vs. departmental approach could be viewed.

Tom said that the number twenty has been a financial target for budgetary purposes for years. Notes could be reviewed to retrieve historical data.

### 3. Health Curriculum Discussion

Don Johnson said that we have people present tonight to speak on Health.

Mary Loftis asked how Health has changed at CVHS since it separated from Computers.

Judy Heddy, CVHS Health Teacher, said that the program has been expanded. Health, relationships, tobacco and alcohol use, decision-making processes, and resources that are available are discussed. Judy said that it is a nine-week course for freshmen. Aprylle Desrosiers distributed a handout (Attachment #1 & 1A) Robin Gregg said that she has experimented with the Great Body Shop. Much of what they do and teach is already included in the Great Body Shop.

Tom Welden said that it is historical in what the vision was for the Health Curriculum. Tom suggested that we regroup and have very specific goals as to what we want done. We need to identify resources for consistency among the elementary schools, middle, and high school.

Ray expressed his appreciation for those that have come to speak tonight. He asked that we think before we purchase anything. It was said that the purchase was already made.

Bart asked Don if this item could be moved up on his timeline.

Don said that he is aware that we don't have health educators in the district and that it is difficult to implement in the middle schools. Don said that he plans to bring the Health Committee back together and move forward quickly. Don added that it is complicated because we have purchased the Great Body Shop. He said that he also wanted to bring this back to the Administrative Council.

Linda Potter said that the minutes might be reviewed. She thought that it might not be as broken as one might think.

Don said that he would like to bring this to the Board before Christmas.

Tom said that he is concerned that we have many areas to address. He suggested that the schedule be revisited. The timelines are tricky and he did not want not to meet the expectation.

Don said that we have many hot priority issues and they all have priority. He said that it does make sense to look that the Board issues are prioritized.

Beverly thanked those for their input.

#### 4. Career Education (K – 12)

Beverly said that discussion has taken place about letting the younger students be more aware about career options in the world.

Don said that Career Education, to him, has always been a K – 12 experience.

Robin Gregg said that at the elementary level they work on three areas, individual work, small group work, and entire class work. Community linkages are discussed. Career Awareness at the elementary level is introduced.

Problem solving and conflict management, among other topics, feed into job readiness.

Dick Dunning said that SMS sends eighth grade students to Keene State College to visit and bring about an awareness. Financial obstacles and how they can be overcome are discussed. Gib West said that at the fifth grade level, exposure to a wide variety of careers in the area is introduced. Academic rigor often becomes an obstacle toward a students desire to continue on to college.

Dick Bergeron asked why the Social Studies curriculum does not talk about economic systems, compensation aspirations etc.

Paula Stewart said that a set of books exists in her school where a specific plot of land is looked at and how it has been used over hundreds of years. It started out as farmland and then evolves to other uses. Paula added that community members come in to the school to present context-based material.

Mary Allen said that Antrim students interviewed approximately twenty people to obtain information on what they do for a living. The students had to plan, dress appropriately, and obtain information that would be later pulled together to gain an understanding of what these folks did.

Chet Bowles said that Career Cruising is a multi-faceted software program that allows students to put together portfolios. Hundreds of questions are available to students. The student can learn wage information and employment opportunity information through this software.

Beverly said that discussion about how the middle and high schools might have uniformity with career education is necessary.

Craig said that the current proposal is to have a 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade survey as part of the career credit. The course is being built.

Joe Hayes, CVHS Director of Guidance, said that the philosophy is not to have a course but rather go through activities that would be required as well as some elected activities that would earn points toward earning the ½ credit. The idea was to develop a fluid process that would tailor to the students needs as they go through the high school.

Craig Hicks referenced the Career Education Curriculum Proposal (See attachment # 2) Craig felt that we should get to students earlier than what the grid suggests. He is looking to peak interest.

Ray said that high school is the last time that this discussion can take place. He has concern with moving down in the years and looking at peaking interest in other areas.

Bart said that the problem is the word “career”. He said that the minute we say that we should help a student find a career we set them up for doom. People change their mind on career in graduate school. He does not want it to be too rigid.

Ray said that he doesn’t want to trap students.

Joe Hayes said that the thrust was to open the door and let students know that they are not a failure if they don’t make a million dollars. There is something to be said for having joy in what you do for a living.

Dick Bergeron said that we were looking for the potential that is available for students.

Bev said one of the benefits of Career Cruising in the middle school is that interests can be pinpointed. Course selection might be driven from there. She thanked Joe for the information he provided.

## 5. Update on Design Team & Curriculum Action Teams

Don said that the design team will be up and running within the next two weeks. The Math action team will be up the Monday after Thanksgiving. Besides the Curriculum development process, the Performance Pathways ability to assess results is taking place. Data teams in each school may exist to better understand the results.

Don added that he would like the Board to review the Professional Development attachment included in tonight’s packet. More time is needed to work on district wide initiatives.

Dick Bergeron said that Marian and he found some old money that will be used in the SAU Board room to improve the technology and allow for professional development opportunities for staff.

**Ray Cote moved to conclude tonight’s meeting at 9:17 p.m. Butch Estey second. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok