

Education Committee Minutes

November 5, 2001

Present: Richard Dunning, Denise Holmes, Christy Greene, Barbara Busenbark, Sue Copley, Meredith Sumner, Gretna Niemi, Cari Coates, Louise O'Sullivan, Tam Drozin, Anita Flanagan, Adine Aldrich, Ken Young, Paul Bartolomucci, Joe MacGregor, A-M Irwin

Meeting opened at 7:06

Agenda item I was an update on supporting students with emotional disabilities at the elementary level. This topic is a follow-up to an ongoing study of young students with emotional problems. Since our last discussion, Tam Drozin, Sped Director, surveyed principals about the need for a more restrictive environment. With the exception of PES and AES, all other principals said they were able to cope with difficult students with the assistance of their Educational Support Teachers.

Tam reviewed the definition, by federal law, of an emotional disturbance. Then she reviewed the SED screening checklist, the educational performance and intervention summary, the definition of an emotional support program, and the composition and effectiveness of the Monadnock Interagency Team. Eight students are currently identified as having severe needs, but we were cautioned that number and need can change at any time if new students move into the district.

By providing a "wrap around" approach, support is provided to students and families. Highlighted as being critical is the need for staff training and the involvement of other service agencies. An interest was expressed for additional social workers and guidance counselors. We will continue to monitor the need for services and programs

Agenda item II Anita Flanagan presented a PowerPoint demonstration of her students at Hancock Elementary using the new math curriculum. Anita and other elementary representatives expressed enthusiasm for the new program and the excitement of their students who are developing deeper understanding as they work through their investigations of math.

A vital element for success is on-going staff training and the need for time for teachers to become familiar and comfortable with the curriculum. Each teacher has received 6 to 8 hours of training for each of the three units they will be teaching this year. The middle school, grades 6 through 8, are working with the Connected Math program which was also selected by the math curriculum team after much study and consultation.

The need for supplementary materials was discussed to keep a good balance between computation and analysis. As data is gathered, more decisions and analysis of the programs will be conducted, but we were reminded there is no one program that is perfect for all students.

More information about the high school math program will be discussed by the Education Committee in the future.

Agenda item III was a review of the program implementation and evaluation process.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17

Next Meeting

November 19, 2001

