

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, December 10, 2007
7:00 P.M.
SAU Office

MINUTES

Attendees: Beverly Bacon, Butch Estey, Mary Loftis, Bart Goodeve, Don Johnson, Linda Potter, Marian Alese, Stewart Brock, Ray Cote, Gib West, (Tom Welden, Dick Dunning, Sue Dell joined at 7:36)

Beverly Bacon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes
Meeting of October 29, 2007**

Bart Goodeve moved to accept the minutes of the October 29, 2007 meeting. Butch Estey second. Stewart Brock abstained. Unanimous.

2. Announcements

- Goals (see attachment #1)
- Committee Members
Beverly Bacon, Bart Goodeve, Mary Loftis, Stewart Brock, and Gail Cromwell will make up the Education Committee membership.
- Meeting Format (see attachment #1)
- Board member participation
- Public Comments
Anyone who would like to add to the conversation may do so.

3. Review and Approve Education Sub-Committee Mission

Beverly referenced the document titled "Education Committee....Mission & Goal"
Bart said that if we start to drift that it is good to remind ourselves of this document

4. Wellness Policy –

Marian provided background. She said that we found out that we needed a policy that addressed physical needs, physical activity and nutritional guidelines put out by the USDA to continue to receive funds. Given the time frame, we looked at several policies in other districts. We developed a composite to help

get us into compliance. Further revision is necessary. The Wellness Council should be active.

Bart asked where the wellness council exists.

Marian said that it is a comprehensive council made up of staff, students, health professionals, parents, etc. It is to review and make sure that the implementation of the policy happens. It is an advisory role.

Bart said that we remember adopting this and there was some debate. No real implementation has occurred.

Marian said that vending machine conversation has taken place.

In addition, a recommended snack list goes out to parents yearly.

Bart said that policies list what we have to do and what we might want to do. He suggested that this committee go through the compliance items first.

Bart listed items from the USDA website that should be included in the wellness policy.

Marian highlighted which of these items were already being incorporated in this district's wellness policy.

Bart asked that the dietary guidelines be collated.

Stewart asked the nurse present, Linda Compton, what she thought about how far off we were. For example, he cited the foods available at the basketball game he just came from. Linda said that it is education. Educating people about which foods are healthier as options that are still right in the frame of what is in demand is a goal.

Marian added that we also conduct fundraising that consists of food. This policy impacts us in a larger way.

Bart asked who would review items technically.

Beverly asked if any of the employees are registered dietitians. Marian said that Donna Reynolds has done some of the education pieces but is not complete. She has taken a course called "Safe Serve".

Marian said that there are recommendations of who should be on the Wellness Policy.

There are pockets of people working but not in a cohesive way.

Bart said that someone needs to be in charge of the medical pieces. For example, allergy components, life saving components, etc.

Linda Potter said that we are working currently with the nurses group to obtain a district physician. In addition, we confer with consultants with the State of NH.

Beverly said that Marian has provided community members who might be interested in participating as a member of the Wellness Committee.

Marian added that for the most part we are doing almost all of the things that the policy says that we should be doing. She feels that we aren't doing them at the same time. We need oversight. There are people who have expressed an interest in becoming a part of the committee. It is a matter of contacting them.

Bart said that we needed two things. The first was a council with responsibility and some degree of authority. The second was an advisory board with a much broader pool of people that will meet time to time.

Stewart asked if we knew if these policies are all current with law.

Don Johnson said that he is fairly confident that we are compliant. He added that we are also going through a policy review.

Ray Cote said that there is a conversation about the quantity of Trans fats.

Bart asked if we were capable of doing this analysis.

Marian said that the vendors know that this is coming. They are working to meet the guidelines.

Bart asked if the detail in our policy, such as serving only 1% milk, was real.

Marian said that it will be by a certain date. It is very detailed.

Linda Compton said that she does not want to lose site of the physical activity component. Linda said that she feels it is an area that we have no expertise in that we are focusing on.

Bart asked if someone could follow up on what dietician resources we have and where they are headed.

4. Update, ConVal Reading Program – “To ensure the Board’s familiarity with district educational programs.

Don Johnson said that one component of the reading program, Reading Recovery, is fading away and moving toward working with reading specialists. We are looking to replacing, through retirement, with reading specialists. The rationale for this is that the Reading Recovery works 1:1 through first grade. Reading specialists could come in with a broader tool bag and work with larger numbers of students. The other piece is that overall the whole reading program will review the curriculum to align with the State. Don also said that we are trying to get RTI (Response to Intervention) off the starting block formally. This will focus in the areas of reading and math.

Linda said that it is much different in the middle and high school than in the elementary schools.

Linda explained that a student cannot be referred due to a lack of education.

The idea is that different strategies will be tried.

Stewart asked if we have staff on board that has this training. Don Johnson said that some do and that he would be looking toward bringing in specialists to conduct this work and train.

Mary Loftis asked about the shift away from Reading Recovery. She asked if it would be odd to have these programs in some schools and not in others. Linda explained that some reading recovery teachers are specialists. We would be calling on them for their expertise.

5. Other -

How can the Ed Committee best work with the Assistant Superintendent and his curriculum work?

Don said that regular reporting back to this committee will be crucial when meeting with the design teams. The design team is the master team that will look at the overall process. They will help toward making recommendations to the school board where as a district we are going. Don said that he is looking for

the Design team to help maintain balance. The Math Action Team is a priority. Don explained that Language Arts has been conducting their work since the summer. The Health Committee should be up and going by the end of January. Don further reviewed the cycle of curriculum review.

Don said that as the committees move forward that they get reported to the Education Committee. Don said that he would like a member of the Education Committee to be present on the Design Team. They normally meet at 3:30 on the first Tuesday of the month.

Bart asked what an Education Committee member will bring to the Design Team.

Don replied that he hopes they bring the questions from a Board perspective.

Bart asked what we should be hearing as a report from this process. Why?

Don said that the key components are the philosophical decisions that are being made. The Board may question why or why not this route was taken.

Bart said that it is important to give the Board member something to chew on rather than just stating that the group met and highlighting what was discussed.

Don said that there are huge initiatives district-wide that are being looked at.

Beverly said that a conversation about class size was touched upon at one point. She asked if this committee would like to pursue class size.

Linda Potter said that we need that sooner rather than later. We need the Boards guidelines for class size. We are making decisions about multi-age so we need to know what the parameters are.

Tom said that the Board needs a recommendation because it varies.

Tom said that the Board would like recommendations from the Administrators.

Beverly asked if the CVLT would work on providing input on this topic. Sue Dell said that she had not yet heard of that request.

Don said that exceptions would need to be identified for example with AP classes.

Marian reviewed the action items required of the Administrative team.

**Beverly Bacon called the meeting to an adjournment at 8:26 p.m.
Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok