

Education Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2010

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
of the Keene Board of Education

Cheshire Career Center Conference Room
Keene High School
43 Arch Street, Keene, NH

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2009 6:30 p.m. Cheshire Career Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Carol Brown, Chair
Kristin Blais
Donald Parker

Administrators Present:

Paul Cooper, Dir. of Human
Resources
William B. Gurney, Co-Supt.
Wayne Woolridge, Co-Supt.
Meredith Cargill, Dir. of Curriculum
& Assessment

Committee Members Absent:

Amy K. Speas

Other Guests Present:

Alan Chmiel, KHS Principal
Judy Idelkope, Chesterfield
Linda McCracken, Stenographer

Board Members Present:

Christopher Coates
Kathleen O'Donnell, Chair
Neil Donegan
Carl A. Panza

Chair Carol Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. **Public Input** – *None*
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2009**
3. **MOTION: Donald Parker moved that the minutes of the Education Committee of December 15, 2009 be approved as presented. Kristin Blais seconded the motion. The committee voted and approved the minutes unanimously, 3-0.**
4. **Policy Review** – *Carol Brown*
Carol Brown introduced the following policies that were forwarded from the Policy Committee. She asked the Education Committee to be prepared to discuss and take action on them at the February meeting. They are as follows:
 - *IIC – Instructional Time*
 - *IKF – High School Graduation Policy*
 - *IMBC – Alternative Credit Options*Ms. Brown stated that Alan Chmiel has already reviewed and vetted IKF & IMBC.

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5. KHS Report – Alan Chmiel

- Report to the Keene Board of Education on the Performance of Students at Keene High School 2008-2009
 - Alan Chmiel distributed the report and highlighted various items:
 - Speaking to the towns, the report time has varied from 10 minutes in Marlow to 1 hour and 25 minutes in Winchester
 - A blank in the report indicates a course name change or out of state course
 - The school population is dropping and will be under 1,400 in four years
 - KHS's dropout rate is below the state average
 - AP results are one of the highest in the United States with 82% of students receiving a three or better
 - NECAP wasn't good in 2008
 - Science was rated at #5 out of 31 schools in NH
 - 71% of graduates go on to further education
 - VHS program has more Honors classes due to specialization and interest of students

Mr. Chmiel will be doing more research on the statistics that show that 72% of Advanced Placement students are from Keene, yet they account for only 57% of the school population. Discussion ensued about academic rigor. Donald Parker thanked Mr. Chmiel for a clear & concise report.

- SAIL use overviews
 - Due to NECAP, 10th grade uses SAIL the most
- Parent Advisory Council Survey Results
 - 9th grade parents are interested in everything, they will be the target audience of parents
- KHS Program of Studies Update (new classes) and Advanced Programs Update
 - Mr. Chmiel distributed two handouts and briefly explained the courses cut and added to the overall programs
- Marching Band at Keene High School
 - The history of the marching band was discussed along with the following:
 - Costs
 - Needs – Marching Band Dir., Choreographer and Set Designer
 - Parading Band vs. Marching Band Competitions
 - Block scheduling and the band
 - KMS as an arts school with less music competition in KHS
 - Community Building
 - Sports vs. Arts
 - Challenging students

Mr. Chmiel will look at what other schools are doing. Ms. Brown asked him to report back at the April Education Committee meeting.

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6. Other

- Christopher Coates discussed some student comments he heard. Juniors and seniors want more consistency around testing times to plan for college. This is more difficult with block scheduling.
- William Gurney stated that *The Keene Sentinel* misquoted by stating that KHS offered a nude art course at the Starving Artists. A correction and an apology has already been received from Sarah Palermo.
- Kristin Blais recommended that Committee members read *Teaching as Leadership: the Highly Effective Teacher's Guide to Closing the Achievement Gap* by "Teach for America" & Steven Farr. This tells what differentiates the good from the great. She also suggested adding it to the website under "What the Board is reading."

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next scheduled meeting was not decided.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda McCracken, Stenographer