

Education Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2009

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
of the Keene Board of Education

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

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 5:30 P.M. Cheshire Career Center Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Carol Brown, Chair
Kristin Blais
Donald Parker
Amy K. Speas

Committee Members Absent:

Board Members Present:

Carter Chamberlain
Kathleen O'Donnell, Chair
Neil Donegan
Carl A. Panza

Administrators Present:

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

Other Guests Present:

Chris Carreira, Technology
Alan Chmiel, KHS Principal
Ege Cordell, Chesterfield
Sharyn D'Eon, Principal, Chesterfield
Julie Farhm, Marlborough
Dorothy Frazier, Principal, KMS
Marcia Kayser, Stoddard
Linda McCracken, Stenographer
Sarah Palermo, *Keene Sentinel*
Tracy Shalit, KMS
Dr. Robert Spear, NELMS
Madeline Ullrich, Wesmoreland
Patty Yoerger, Principal, JD

Chair Carol Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

- 1. Public Input – None**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2009 and September 29, 2009**
- 3. MOTION: Kristin Blais moved that the minutes of the Education Committee Meetings of May 19, 2009 and September 29, 2009 be approved as presented. Amy Speas seconded the motion.**

Donald Parker stated that on Section g for the September 29, 2009 minutes that the following be added. "It was his understanding that the goal of the improvement plans was to reach the required AYP level next year, and he urged Mr. Gurney and Ms. Cargill to give the plans one more review to help achieve this objective."

The committee approved the minutes unanimously as amended above, 4-0.

4. K-12 Assessments (NWEA, AP, NECAP Administration, Exit Survey) - Meredith Cargill

Meredith Cargill discussed the comparison of NECAP scores at the High School level and the data matrix assessments in the handouts. She also answered questions about the amount of testing in the fall and looking at cohort groups. She explained that she can now help make comparisons detailing educational growth over the school year either as school or as a class. NWEA is best for this, and allows teachers to make immediate changes in teaching specific skill sets to aid students. MAPS tests determine reading ranges and are done school by school. Ms. Speas asked if parents throughout the district received copies of their child(ren)'s test results in a consistent manner. Ms. Cargill explained that right now that is done at the school level; her aim is to work with building-level administrators to share MAP test results with parents in a consistent manner. Implementation of data analysis and data teams is also currently done school by school. A combination of data points can be triangulated to provide a clearer picture of a child's achievement. The MAP test also provides a Lexile score. This is a range that can match a reader's ability with a text's readability. In any given classroom, you can find an average 800 point spread in Lexile scores – a challenge for teachers who present reading material. After a SAIL overview, Ms. Cargill stated that the next steps are around Professional Development, Data Analysis and Professional Learning Communities. William Gurney asked for four-year figures as a follow-up for next month.

5. Gifted and Talented Update for KMS - Dr. Robert Spear (NELMS)

It's challenging to teach this age level as they are going from concrete to abstract thinking at different rates and different times. Differentiated instruction helps. Handouts were distributed. Mr. Spear discussed subject groups for a student experience, not permanently; outside activities (athletics, art, writing, math challenges); student led Parent Conferences with goals & objectives so students own their strengths and weaknesses; hands on active community learning; team-based decision making; differentiated instruction; individualized learning plans; Master Teachers to coach teachers; professional development; homework and no labeling of students. Using these methods students will challenge themselves. You need to measure academically, socially and emotionally and take a holistic approach. Ege Cordell questioned whether the true needs of the gifted were met since they seem to be sensitive, empathetic and want fair play. She felt they may pay a price. Dr. Spear stated assessment is important and he knew a 6th grader who was so developed the student went on to high school, but it's the exception to the rule. Amy Speas asked about IEPs for the gifted, but Dr. Spear felt that a profile with goals Personalization of Learning Differentiation, works well for 85% of students. Differentiation was discussed as a Professional Learning Community taking 1-3 years to develop outcomes and goals.

6. Calendar Committee Update - William Gurney

With complaints about school starting too early and ending too late with snow days, the committee looked at options & limitations while researching various models. Student learning was a priority. A handout showed the results of a survey. Blizzard

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bags are being piloted as a proposal between another SAU and the New Hampshire Department of Education. Survey respondents also weighed in on a full 180-day year, or the school could count hours, not days. Carol Brown asked for a recommendation. Mr. Gurney stated that people like the March option, while Tom Remillard, Director of Building and Grounds, feels February maintenance helps stop germs. Summer learning loss doesn't show with families who do activities with their children. Ms. Brown asked for another review next month.

7. Proposing a PC Windows class - Carter Chamberlain

There was a study group with discussions and research on proposing a Windows class. Microsoft Office is taught early on Macs. 95% of businesses are on a PC. 71% of school districts are PC. SAU29 is very mixed. Additional Professional Development would be needed for IT teachers. Lab time and the ½ credit were discussed. Mr. Gurney and Alan Chmiel felt it was worthwhile and fit with current school programs.

8. Computer Platform Report - Chris Carreira

Students are self-directed and tend to create their own communities so improving Technology Goals are important. Currently Keene has 1,028 Macs and 187 PCs, not including CCC. Most towns, except Marlow, are Mac based. The concerns are that the equipment doesn't match and it's old (4-5 years) and fails with more than 100 users (the servers). With a fast network, there is a lot of waiting as the old equipment can't keep up. Maintenance costs are soaring with 4 eMacs failing per week (620 units). He discussed a 3 year replacement cycle with centralized servers and using leased machines to save on purchasing and maintenance costs. HP has been invited to consult on our systems and make suggestions. Munis has been outsourced. Ms. Brown asked about PowerSchool, it is web-based and would still work. Instructors would have a computer and software, and students would have monitors that act like computers. This reduces energy and software licensing costs. Money, legal leasing concerns, Google Docs, wireless, security, Power School and KMS were discussed. KMS will have all new equipment except for the lab which is only one year old. Ms. Brown asked for the next step and was told a contract with HP or another vendor would be done. She asked for a proposal with a three year cycle. Mr. Gurney stated that the towns may also participate on the same price breaks. Ms. Brown suggested that it go straight to the Finance Committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 P.M. The next scheduled meeting was not decided.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda McCracken, Stenographer